Million Dollar Scholars are set for college. PAGE 2
Phan's request for continuing release is approved. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

'CW bill up next week'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

After sailing through the U.S. Senate last week on a majority vote, S. 2325, or the Northern Marianas U.S. Workforce Act bill, is set to be on deck when the U.S. House of Representatives goes into session next week.

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Killili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) shared this with business leaders at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

See CW on Page 4

Neni set to arrive on Pagan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first modern-day Chamorro canoe to sail for the Northern Islands was set to arrive on Pagan yesterday.

The 500 Sails organization, which owns the *Neni* vessel, joined the flotilla arranged by the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD that set sail for the Northern Islands early Sunday morning.

The trip is significant because it would make *Neni* the first Cham-

See NENI on Page 4

Seagoing vessel *Neni* is prepared for the open ocean voyage to the Northern Islands last Sunday.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Kagman Community Health Center staff working in the Social Hall of Santa Soledad Parish in Kagman.
ERWIN ENCINARES

OAG: Ex-Labor chief leased 4 cars; no indication that govt leased them

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» OPD says govt shows stack of short-term car rental agreements, not leases

In the span of years she served as CNMI Labor secretary, Edith Eleanor DeLeon Guerrero used government funds to lease four vehicles and that those vehicles bore no indication that the government leased them, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Neither the vehicles' front doors nor license plates indicated any government affiliation—and the windows were tinted, said assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr.

DeLeon Guerrero's use of an unmarked government vehicle with tinted windows and civilian plates "violated three provisions of the Com-

See OAG on Page 4

KCHC offers MOU to CHCC

» Both healthcare providers summoned

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation committee has summoned the chief executive officers and boards of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Kagman Community Health Center to talk about what led the latter to move to a temporary site.

The KCHC, which used to oper-

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Officials officially open the new Systems of Care office in San Antonio.
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An uneasy transformation is taking place in Myanmar's second-largest city.
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Kanye West is causing another stir, calling American slavery a "choice."
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In "Insta-Post It," we encourage readers to send in their Instagram photos for publication, whether it's a wedding, baptism, birthday, or Christening. Wouldn't it be awesome to have your milestone featured and memorialized by the new magazine? Preserve a copy of the moment by having the magazine post it.

Local

Million Dollar Scholars set for college

The Million Dollar Scholars pose for a photo with their school banners during announcement night last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Ballroom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The current batch of Million Dollar Scholars have officially selected the universities they will attend after they graduate, announcing their choices Tuesday night in an event called Decision Day, hosted by the Million Dollar Scholar program and Marianas Young Professionals at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

According to Gerard Van Gils, founder of the Million Dollar Scholars program, 43 students participated in the Million Dollar Scholars program this year and all 43 announced the school they applied for and have been accepted to.

"We have 43 scholars who are…going to attend a total of 14 different colleges, trade schools, and universities in the United States, including our very own NMC," he said.

This year's batch of scholars is the biggest the program has seen so far. Van Gils said it is about double the number seen last year.

"In previous years, we sent 20 kids per year from our club and this year we have more than double. In years to come, we hope to grow even more," he said.

Million Dollar scholar Meillene Ferrer plans to attend Northern Marianas College to pursue her higher education and gain college experience without having to rely on student loans.

The Million Dollar Scholars provides mentoring, social support, and, in some cases, financial support, but the goal is to connect high school students to resources that are available through different government or non-profit organizations.

Aside from Ferrer, the other scholars who announced the institutions they will attend after high school are: Frances Santos (Western Oregon University), Bella Semens (University of Hawaii at Manoa), Charmel Shrestha (University of Hawaii at Manoa), Eugene Villagomez (Dixie State University), Johnson Atalig (University of Guam), Rose Ann Bichayda (Washington State University), Marijean Fernandez (Dixie State University), Kayla John (Washington State University), Morzina Khan (Adamson University), Angel Legaspi (Boise State University), Danielle Pineda (Eastern Oregon University), Tiava To'omata (Dixie State University), Tifanny Cayading (Kapiolani Community College), Marian Danga (Eastern Oregon University), Janelle Lavetoria (University of Guam), Cerijean Mangubat (Northern Marianas College), Isabel Palacios (University of Guam), and Janice Rabauliman (Northern Marianas College). ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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BEA CABRERA

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, Community Guidance Center program manager Nadine Sablan, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) lead other legislators and members of the SOC program in cutting the ribbon to the new Systems of Care Building in San Antonio.

BEA CABRERA

From left, CHCC CEO Esther Muña, Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), and CGC program manager Nadine Sablan sign the proclamation to make the month of May the Children's Mental Health Awareness Month.

Clinic opens in San Antonio

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna, and Community Guidance Center director Nadine Sablan led other officials Tuesday to officially open the new Systems of Care office in San Antonio.

» **May is Children's Mental Health Awareness Month**

At the same time, Palacios signed a proclamation declaring May as Children's Mental Health Awareness Month.

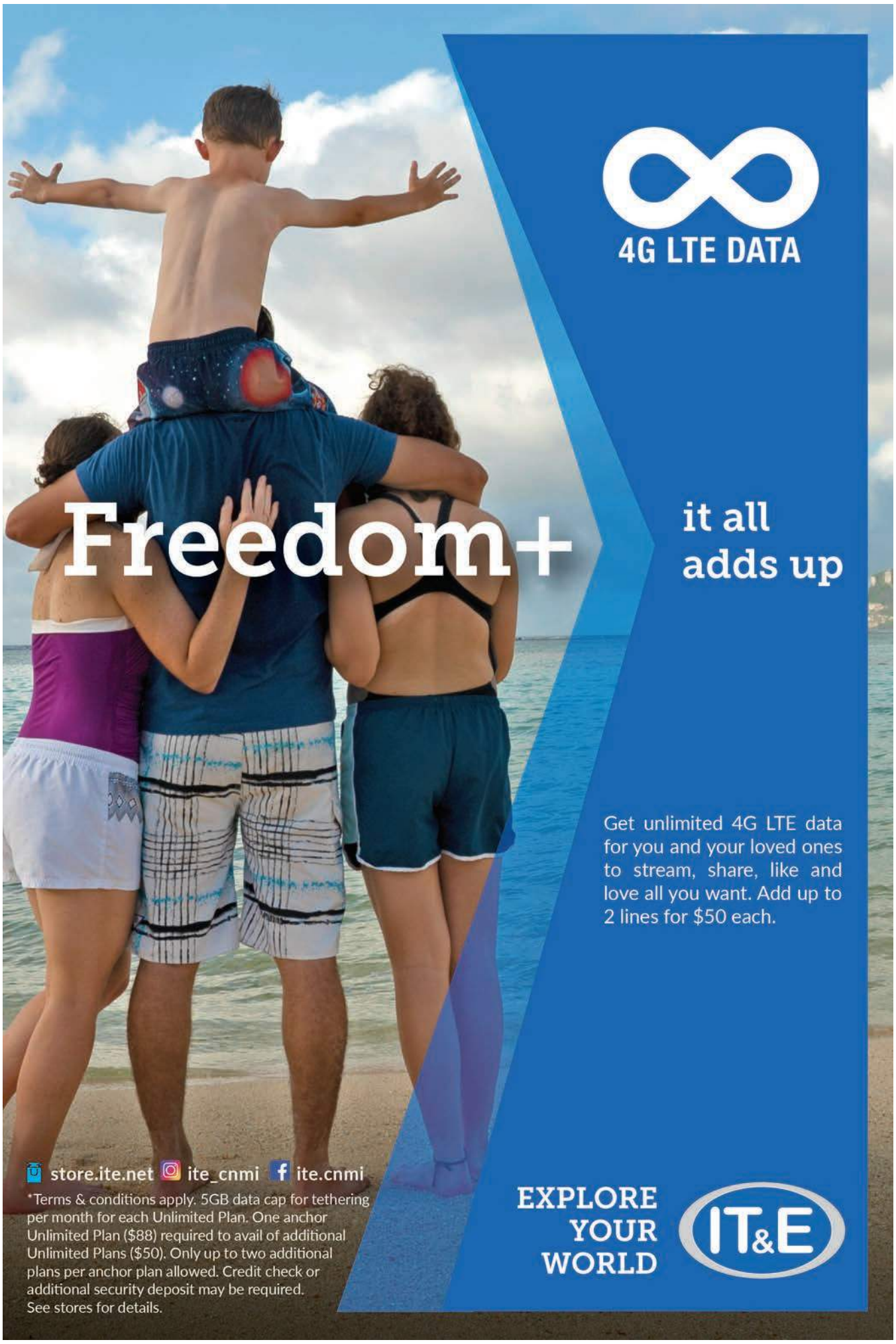
Systems of Care or Hali' Inaguaiya program manager Vina S. Ayuyu said since their program is focused on improving mental and behavioral health outcomes for children and youth, they recognize children's mental health concerns throughout the year.

The events set to promote the Children's Mental Health Awareness Month are the following: KKMP Radio Talk Show on May 3, 17, and 31 from 7:30am to 8:30am; Launch N' Learn on May 16 from 8am to 2pm; and Family Expo on May 26 from 9am to 2pm at the Garapan Central Park. Other activities are to be announced.

The proclamation was followed by a ribbon cutting of the new Systems of Care office, part of the Community Guidance Center, which is under CHCC.

"The Systems of Care building is a product of a long plan, built on…helping this community, especially our children," Muña said.

According to Ayuyu, the SOC program works closely with youth serving agencies. "The community can just walk in and either do a self-referral or refer someone who they believe can benefit from the services that we offer," she said. "This program is open to all our residents and we also have the same programs on Tinian and Rota."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OAG

From Page 1

monwealth Code, for which she is now being prosecuted," said Glass in a brief filed Tuesday to oppose her motion to dismiss the traffic case filed against her.

In her reply yesterday, DeLeon Guerrero, through assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, asserted that the case should be dismissed because the government will not be able to prove that the vehicle or vehicles involved were "government vehicles."

Zona said that, contrary to its representations, the government has provided a stack of short-term car rental agreements, not leases.

"The government cannot convert a short-term rental agreement into a lease simply by calling it a lease," Zona said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho heard the motion yesterday morning and placed the matter under advisement.

The bench trial will start on Wednesday, May 9, at 9am at the U.S. District courthouse.

In the government's opposition to dismiss the case, Glass described as absurd DeLeon Guerrero's claim that a vehicle leased using government funds for a government employee using government procurement policies is "not" a government vehicle.

The prosecutor also asserted that the government has provided DeLeon Guerrero with enough notice of the charges against her in both the information and discovery provided.

Glass said her unwillingness to review the discovery, which consists in part of lease agreements with Islander Rent-A-Car, does not render the government's notice to her constitutionally deficient.

He said even if the Superior Court agrees with defendant that the information should be more specific, the remedy would be to amend the information or provide a bill of particulars—not dismissal.

The prosecutor said DeLeon Guerrero's requests to delay the case cannot count against the government as a violation of her right to a speedy trial.

He said DeLeon Guerrero—who first raised the issue of speedy trial only weeks ago for the first time and failed to show any prejudice—can either have her requested delay or a prompt trial.

"But not both. She cannot have her cake and eat it too," Glass said.

Glass said no part of the information, which essentially charges the infractions contained within the original citation, is barred by the statute of limitations.

Indeed, he said, the statute of limitations does not even apply to traffic offenses.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CW

From Page 1

"The [U.S.] Senate passed the bill last Monday by unanimous consent. It was transmitted to the House on Tuesday and it has been held 'at the desk' in the House, which means it can be acted on at anytime," he said.

"Last Friday, I spoke to a majority leadership member and he assured me that the House will act on the U.S. Workforce Act after we return to Washington, [D.C.] next week. Like Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), I am confident that the President will sign the bill when he receives it," he added.

Sablan said that one of the important features of the bill sets the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker cap for fiscal year 2019 at 13,000.

"I believe 13,000 should be enough to keep our economy going, particularly because the movers behind the large construction projects are finally starting to understand how to get H2-B visas and not use up the CW permits that are so precious to so many of your businesses. We are fortunate to have 13,000 permits as the recent number for the CW program," he added.

The other features of the Northern Marianas U.S. Workforce Act includes:

■ Extending the transition period to 2029, which means more jobs to CW program and possibility of investors through the E2-C investor visa;

■ Extending the national cap for H visas so the CNMI can have as many construction workers as needed;

■ Extending the continuing bar on asylum, which makes the parole system for Chinese tourism possible. Sablan cautioned, however, that a move by the Trump administration to kill the parole program for CNMI tourism is "a very real possibility";

■ Extending a specific numerical winding down of the CW program. For 2019, the CNMI will have 13,000 CW permits. In 2024, that will be down to 10,500 CW permits, which is still higher than this year;

■ The bill carries new protection for local workers in competition from cheaper foreign labor;

■ For businesses, there are new protection from the companies that scoop up hundreds of CW permits and then not use them;

■ As for long-term CW worker or legacy workers, businesses don't have to worry about yearly renewals with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services because, unlike regular CW workers, legacy workers don't have to go home every two years as they can stay at least until 2029.

Sablan also gave a glimpse of the process that took place to put together the Northern Mariana U.S. Workforce Act, which he described as filled with "nail-biter moments."

"…We started with no extension and no more CW workers after 2019. Chairman Murkowski insisted of taking away the authority of the Secretary of Labor to extend the CW program beyond 2019. The extension that passed in 2014 included the bar to claims of asylum, which made parole-based tourism with China possible. In terms of taking away the ability of the Secretary of Labor to extend the CW program past 2019, it was a tough choice but I chose five more years of China and Russian tourism," he said.

According to Sablan, another critically important decision was to request the U.S. Government Accountability Office to report on foreign labor in the Marianas.

"In 2016, Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Ron Caldwell, and I jointly asked the GAO to stretch the scope of its regular report to Congress from minimum wage to include an analysis of how the U.S, immigration law impacted the Commonwealth. The report came out in May 2017 and it concluded that, without foreign labor, the Marianas economy will shrink by 26-62 percent," he said.

That report changed some minds, Sablan said, but not about extending the CW program past 2019, adding the report was only enough to convince certain members of Congress that maybe it will be okay to give the Marianas a few more workers in 2017.

"…this is how I got the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act passed in Congress and signed into law in August 2017," he said.

Sablan said there was dissatisfaction about the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act that was enacted in 2017, calling it a short-term measure.

"That is not necessarily true because the increase in training local workers to replace foreign workers contained in the Economic Expansion Act continues to this day and that shifted focus from how many foreign workers do you need to how many U.S. workers can we find and train to fill the need of the Marianas economy… Last year, the President signed the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act, which raised a number of CW permits and became a precursor to the U.S. Workforce Act," he added.

Sablan said he empathizes with businesses who have lost CW employees while waiting for the bill's passage.

"I know…there may be some of you who may have applications in the fiscal year 2019 that have been returned or rejected. Once the U.S. Workforce Act is signed into law, you will have an opportunity to re-apply and, instead of 4,999 CW permits—the number that the past administration decided on—there will be 13,000 permits for next year, the number that Congress decided on," he said.

"It's a good bill but it's not a law yet. So last Monday I spent answering calls from Senate Democrats as they all wanted to know if I support this bill. I said, yes, and they agreed to support it, so getting the bill passed next week is the one that I will be working on," he said.

NENI

From Page 1

orro canoe in scores of years to make it to the Northern Islands. It is currently unknown if there are extant records of any Chamorro canoe making the trip to the Northern Islands.

According to 500 Sails executive director Pete Perez, the journey to the Northern Islands would take about 40 hours, depending on the wind.

"*Neni* is the fastest of the canoes…she's like a rocket…I think it's going to take the canoes somewhere between 28 and 40 hours," he said.

Neni was built from a traditional Chamorro canoe design, very close to the specification of a drawing in 1742 called the "Ansen drawing" of a Chamorro canoe. *Neni* has already been out on the open ocean.

"She went to Tinian and it took her four hours to get there and 11 hours back," Perez said.

Perez said the people who are sailing *Neni* are experienced *proa* sailors who are confident that *Neni* will make it safely to Pagan; one of them is master navigator Ali Haleyalur from Lamotrek, Yap. *Proa* is the local term for a canoe.

"She's [*Neni*] going on a very serious voyage and may even be some of the toughest seas in the world but we've got good weather, it's the right season, we have seasoned navigators and voyagers on her…they are very competent and we are going to be there with them to all look after each other," he said.

Haleyalur was originally tasked to sail a canoe called *Tasa* from Saipan to Guam, to Rota, and then back to Guam but he was later convinced to sail *Neni* to Pagan.

"I am not worried because I know I can do it, except if the sea gets too rough to handle," Perez said.

He pointed out that the ancient Chamorro people used traditional canoes all the time and the average size was even smaller than *Neni* and were still able to travel between the islands.

"These canoes are designed to sit on top of the water and because of the outrigger and the haul, they counter-balance and they float on top of water so it doesn't have a lot of draft… its like a mosquito on top of the water," he said.

Neni and the *Okeanos Marianas* are set to arrive back on Saipan next week.

KCHC

From Page 1

ate a clinic on Lemmai Way in Kagman II, has moved its operations to the Santa Soledad Parish social hall as a result of CHCC replacing the locks and alarm codes of the KCHC clinic.

According to House vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), a lack of planning and communication is prominent in the scuffle between the two healthcare providers. She also serves as the delegation committee chair for Health and Welfare.

"The issue here is [there is] a lack of communication. We all should come to the table and discuss it [there]. We have to lay down all our plans since our ultimate goal is to provide healthcare services in Kagman and also in San Antonio," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Their meeting is scheduled for Friday, 9am, at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

In a previous CHCC statement, CEO Esther Muña said the expiration of the Federally Qualified Health Center grant, which was funding the center, on April 30, 2018, made the KCHC facility and equipment the responsibility of CHCC.

The same statement also echoed the "most important" management requirement to be in compliance with the grant—safeguarding of assets to prevent loss, damage, or theft.

"It's unfortunate that this is happening…we expected them to do their job and we are just doing our jobs," said Muña in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Tuesday. "…[KCHC] made a decision to close the clinic, we just acted on that. We have to make an arrangement with the Human Resources Services and Management [the grantor] to return these items."

Vincent Castro, the former KCHC executive director and now KCHC CEO, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the clinic closing from April 27, 2018, to April 30, 2018, was for "staff training."

"We still saw patients that day," said Castro.

Both KCHC and CHCC were scheduled to meet last Monday but the result of the meeting has yet to be affirmed.

In a statement, KCHC board chair Velma Palacios said that KCHC would be proposing a collaborative memorandum of understanding with CHCC.

In a copy of the MOU that *Saipan Tribune* obtained late last night, it proposes that CHCC and KCHC share their services. KCHC would request CHCC to be responsible for a vast number of healthcare services, including immunization; HIV/STD prevention; family planning; radiology services; laboratory analysis; staff training; collaborative diabetes outreach; labor and delivery services; and many more, while KCHC will offer CHCC their cooperation with current and future public health projects; help provide documentation for medical coverage clients; help provide medical records free of charge; help provide services for indigent patients according to HRSA project objectives and guidelines; and assistance with final reporting requirements and transitional needs for the current HRSA grant ending April 30, 2018, among others.

"Recognizing the shared goals between KCHC and CHCC, both parties seek to leverage each other's respective strengths, experience, technologies, methodologies, investments, and resources (both human, in-kind, and monetary) to pursue a broadly scoped service focused on supporting clinical services that advance the respective missions of both organizations," the MOU states.

In an email from Palacios, she said KCHC does not expect an immediate response from CHCC.

"Our intent is for KCHC to present the MOU for consideration. We are open to any changes to the MOU. CHCC did indicate they don't have MOUs with private clinics," she said, adding that the MOU is similar to when they were co-applicants with CHCC.

In a previous statement from KCHC, the MOU seeks to "strictly" establish collaboration and nothing more with CHCC.

"KCHC will not request any monetary or direct staffing support from CHCC," said a previous KCHC statement.

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Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan

PUBLIC NOTICE

April 18, 2018

NOTICE TO CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS, LABOR UNIONS, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

The Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan intends to solicit assistance from the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT). The assistance will include health clinic and roadway projects to support local capital improvement needs. The proposed assistance will take place at the Tinian Health Center in San Jose, Tinian 96952 in 2018 and in various locations in 2019. Construction contractors, labor unions, or private individuals who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for this project may contact Alexis Hofschneider from the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan at (670) 433-1800/2 or via e-mail at alexishofschneider@gmail.com no later than thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice (or May 18, 2018). Persons not filing comments within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for this project.

/s/ Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan

Islam's request to remain free pending his appeal approved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has approved Mohammed Rafiqul Islam's request that he remain at liberty until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rules on his appeal. Islam, who was slapped with an 18-month prison sentence for his participation in a fake jobs scam that targeted Bangladeshis, is appealing his conviction.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour approved Islam's request after determining that Islam poses neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

Islam has been free since the start of the case, has surrendered his passport to the U.S. Probation Office, and does not have the means to obtain a travel document or to flee Saipan.

In making this determination, Coughenour took into account the geography of the island and the difficulty of travel without passport.

In opposing Islam's motion, the U.S. government cited Islam's lack of legal status or family on Saipan.

But Coughenour said Islam also has incentive to stay and litigate his conviction, which could bar any future entry to the U.S. He said Islam's continuous employment before his arrest indicates community ties beyond immediate family.

"Any incentive to flee is clearly outweighed by these considerations and barriers to flight," Coughenour said.

Finally, Coughenour noted that Islam's conviction was not for a crime of violence, and supervision while on release is sufficient to assure he does not pose a threat.

The U.S. government asserts that Islam's appeal is merely intended to delay the case because he may be working illegally.

But Coughenour said regardless of Islam's legal status or work authorization, his appeal raises substantial issues of law or fact, including evidentiary rulings at trial, the sufficiency of the evidence to support his conviction, the propriety of the U.S. government's actions prior and during trial.

Coughenour noted that if the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit finds in Islam's favor on any of these issues, it is likely to reverse or order a new trial.

Last Oct. 18, a federal jury returned a guilty verdict against Islam of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

He was sentenced to 18 months in prison, with supervised release and other conditions. He was ordered to pay $188,426 in restitution for the victims, jointly with his co-defendant, his brother Muksedur Rahman.

Coughenour allowed Islam to remain at liberty until he is notified by the U.S. Marshal Service to report to prison.

Islam, through counsel Bruce Berline, has appealed his conviction to the Ninth Circuit. He recently asked the District Court for his continued release pending the outcome of his appeal.

Islam's co-defendants—David Trung Quoc Phan and Muksedur Rahman—were also convicted. Phan was sentenced to eight months in prison, while Rahman was slapped with a 48-month prison term. Phan also appeals to the Ninth Circuit.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 17, 2018
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 05/17/2018 Agenda
4. Adoption of 04/19/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1010:** Saipan Brewing Co., LLC is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey structure for a home-based small scale brewing of alcohol beverages. This use is classified as "Cottage Industry" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1463 NEW-1 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1165:** Art Ridge Village Homes, LLC is proposing to construct a 7-storey structure to operate an apartment with a total of 144 units. This project is classified as "Multifamily or Apartment" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 1925-1, 1925-2, 1925-3-1, & 1925-5-R1 (current Triple J Motors location) in Garapan. This area is zoned as Beach Road.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1168:** Karidat Saipan is proposing to occupy an existing 2-storey structure (former Sister Remedios Pre-school/Daycare building) as office spaces for Karidat programs & services. This use is classified as "Office Use" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 007 H 01 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1170:** New Century Hotel, LLC is proposing to occupy an existing 3-storey structure (former Sebastian Bldg.) to operate a hotel with a total of 48 units. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 002 B 28 in Tanapag. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1171:** First Pacific Investment Group, Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing 7-storey structure (former Plumeria Resort) to operate a hotel with a total of 221units. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 003 B 12 & 003 B 13 in Achugao. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
6. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1731:** Isla Montessori School, Inc. is proposing to occupy two single-storey residential structures to operate a school. This use is classified as "School, Private" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 010 K 87 & 010 K 88 along Flores Street in DanDan. This area is zoned a Village Residential.

C. Communication

D. Old Business:
1. Board decisions on the following applications heard during the Public Hearing conducted on April 19, 2018:
   i. **Rezone Application #2018-0706:** Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute (Rezone)
   ii. **Conditional Use Application #2018-0748:** Share View Travel Corporation (Bed & Breakfast)
2. All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) – "Amusement, Outdoor": Administrator's recommendation & Board decision

E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Phan's request for continuing release is approved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designate Judge John C. Coughenour granted yesterday David Truong Quoc Phan's request to remain out of jail until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rules on his appeal.

In a three-page order, Coughenour said he agrees with the U.S. government's determination that Phan is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

Phan is among three men convicted by a federal jury for their participation in a scheme to bring Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

The jury convicted Phan of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Phan was slapped with an eight-month prison sentence. He appealed to the Ninth Circuit. He also asked the District Court to allow his continued release pending the outcome of his appeal.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto, opposed Phan's motion. Benedetto asserted that Phan has not shown that his appeal would likely result in a reversal, an order for a new trial, and a sentence that does not include imprisonment.

Phan's appeal to the Ninth Circuit challenges the sufficiency of the evidence to support his conviction for fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Coughenour said the fact that Phan does not challenge his conviction on all counts does not preclude release pending appeal.

Coughenour said if the Ninth Circuit finds the evidence insufficient to support Phan's conviction, his already short term of imprisonment would likely be reduced to a sentence less than the expected duration of appeal.

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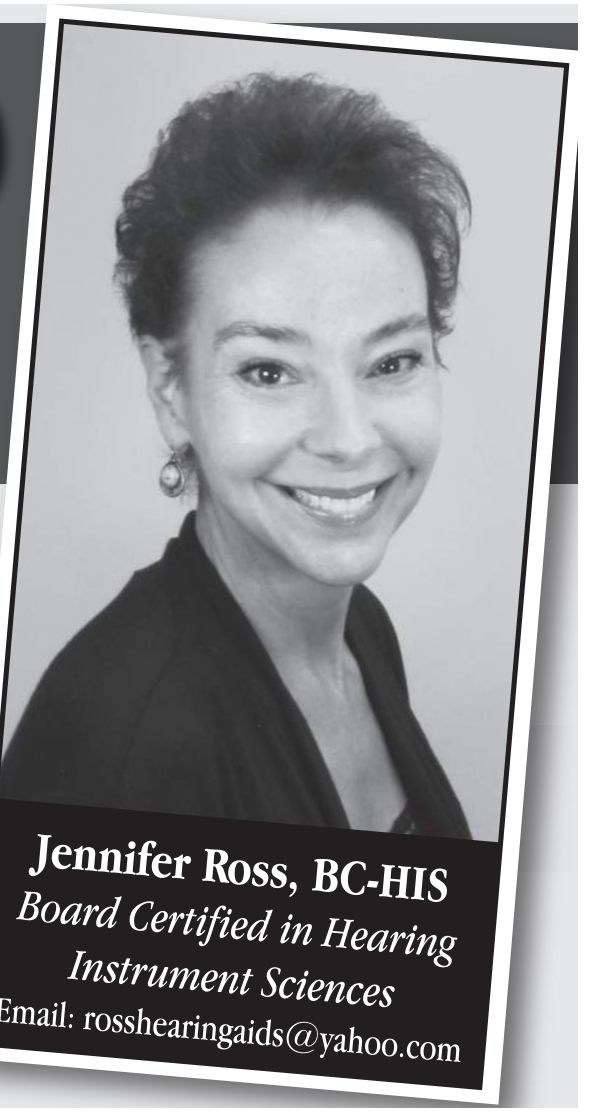
Wednesday, May 9th 8:30am - 4:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan


Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

Ross Hearing Aids
All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

CAREER FAIR
Connect with Local Employers!
Attend the NMC Career Fair **TOMORROW** and meet local employers from different industries who will be showcasing **job opportunities** and who are **looking to hire!**
FRIDAY, MAY 04, 2018
9AM - 12PM
Saipan World Resort
Royal Taga Hall
For more information and a list of participating companies, visit: www.marianas.edu 237-6759 neda.deleon.guerrero@marianas.edu
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Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018.

This award recognizes individuals, companies, and schools who promote environmental stewardship, and who are committed to the conservation of the Commonwealth's precious natural resources.

The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018.

Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota:

■ **The Environmental Champion Award** will go to an individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the environment and preservation of the CNMI's natural resources.

■ **The Environmental Heroes Award** will go to a school group or club whose students exemplify an eagerness to learn and a passion for conservation.

■ **The Green Business of the Year** will go to a business that is committed to conservation by incorporating the green business culture through its entire organization.

Nominations must include: 1) your name and contact information; 2) your nominee and the category you are nominating in; and 3) at least a one page narrative explaining why your nominee should receive a Green Award.

Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com, or mail to MINA, P.O. Box 506645, Saipan MP 96950. You may also deliver your nominations at MINA's office located on the ground floor of Gualo Rai Center. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***

SCS band to stage spring concert and ukulele jam

The Saipan Community School Concert Band will put on its 30th Annual Spring Concert program, "A Night of Folk Music," today, May 3, at the Saipan Community Church Chapel at 7pm.

Next Thursday, May 10, join the school at Saipan Community Church Chapel at 7pm for the Saipan Community School ukulele jam, "Classic." They will put on a show featuring music by Strauss' *Blue Danube* as well as some modern classics such as *My Girl* by The Temptations and Ben E. King's *Stand By Me*.

Saipan Community School is a private Christian school that was established in 1976 as the first Protestant school on the island. SCS offers a U.S. curriculum taught in English. It provides education in a Christian environment. For more information, contact school principal Amanda Dunn, via principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call 234-6687, or visit the school on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

Meeting for farmers/producers

There will be a farmers/producers meeting on May 15, at 9am at the Kagman Agriculture Station to discuss the upcoming 31st Agriculture Fair. All farmers and producers who wish to participate in the fair must register their names and plants/animals to display. We will be issuing out a registration form during this meeting. Also, farmers will be asked to select amongst themselves who will participate in the Agriculture Fair Committee. They will be selecting officers for president, vice president, and secretary/ treasurer. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Karidat Saipan

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Karidat Saipan is proposing to occupy an existing 2-storey structure (former Sister Remedios Pre-school/Daycare building) as office spaces for Karidat programs & services. This use is classified as "Office Use" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 007 H 01 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, May 16, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

New Century Hotel, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. New Century Hotel, LLC is proposing to occupy an existing 3-storey structure (former Sebastian Bldg.) to operate a hotel with a total of 48 units. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 002 B 28 in Tanapag. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Brewing Co., LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Brewing Co., LLC is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey structure for a home-based small scale brewing of alcohol beverages. This use is classified as "Cottage Industry" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1463 NEW-1 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, May 16, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Art Ridge Village Homes, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Art Ridge Village Homes, LLC is proposing to construct a 7-storey structure to operate an apartment with a total of 144 units. This project is classified as "Multifamily or Apartment" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 1925-1, 1925-2, 1925-3-1, & 1925-5-R1 (current Triple J Motors location) in Garapan. This area is zoned as Beach Road.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, May 16, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

First Pacific Investment Group, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. First Pacific Investment Group, Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing 7-storey structure (former Plumeria Resort) to operate a hotel with a total of 221units. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 003 B 12 & 003 B 13 in Achugao. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, May 16, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Isla Montessori School, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Isla Montessori School, Inc. is proposing to occupy two single-storey residential structures to operate a school. This use is classified as "School, Private" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 010 K 87 & 010 K 88 along Flores Street in DanDan. This area is zoned a Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, May 16, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NAP extends hours, hikes maximum benefits

Effective May 1, 2018, the Nutrition Assistance Program will extend hours of operation for its Certification Unit from 8am to 6pm, Mondays through Fridays, with the exception of holidays.

The extension of work hours is meant to help working households who may not be able to avail of NAP application services because their daily work schedule ends after the NAP closes its business hours. This extension may help alleviate the burden on workers and employers from having to constantly adjust work schedules because workers need to take time off from work in order to apply for assistance or to report to the NAP office to further meet eligibility requirements.

Additionally, other households or non-working households may also avail of the extended hours, especially for households who rely on transportation from family members or from friends who are working to transport them to the NAP office.

Additionally, effective May 1, 2018, the maximum benefit allotments for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota/ Northern Islands will be increased. Table shows the approved levels for the CNMI effective May 1, 2018, and in comparison, to Guam's fiscal year 2018 approved levels.

Maximum Monthly Benefit Level Effective May 1, 2018				Guam's FY 2018 Approved Levels
Household Size	Saipan	Tinian	Rota/ Northern Islands	
1	$283	$299	$344	$283
2	$519	$546	$629	$519
3	$743	$782	$901	$743
4	$944	$998	$1,150	$944
5	$1,121	$1,180	$1,360	$1,121
6	$1,345	$1,417	$1,544	$1,345
7	$1,487	$1,569	$1,808	$1,487
8	$1,699	$1,785	$2,057	$1,699

The Certification Unit is the entity under the NAP office responsible to receive and determine eligibility on nutrition assistance applications. The Certification Unit is located on the ground floor of the NAP office at the JTV Building in As Lito.

Applications for nutrition assistance are available daily and can be picked up at the Certification Unit office from 8am to 6pm. Applications can be submitted at the Certification Unit during hours of operation. Application submitted during the 1st to the 10th of each month and are determined eligible -will receive a full month's calculated benefit. Application received during the 11thto the 20th and are determined eligible will receive half of their full month's calculated benefit. Application received after the 20thof each month and determined eligible shall be considered for the next month.

For more information, contact the NAP Administration Office at 237-2842 or 237-2843. ***(PR)***

Pacific women in Maritime Association calls for better recognition, visibility and capacity

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea—The Pacific Women in Maritime Association has elected a new executive committee and reaffirmed that the Pacific maritime sector must remain focused on meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls in the maritime sector.

The Second Regional Conference for Pacific Women in Maritime, held from April 26-28, was organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the International Maritime Organization, and the government of Papua New Guinea.

This conference was attended by representatives from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The meeting brought together women from the Pacific region's maritime sector, including representatives from maritime administrations and regional partners, to review progress and decide on actions to give further effect to the 2016 Regional Conference resolution.

While addressing participants at the official opening, Helen Buni, IMO Focal Point for Women in Maritime, said, "IMO continues to support the participation of women in both shore-based and seagoing posts, in line with the priorities outlined under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals."

The conference acknowledged the major progress made since 2016 with the establishment of national associations in Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, in addition to the Papua New Guinea Women in Maritime Association which has been active since 2007.

The meeting saw a new executive committee of PacWIMA elected, with Papua New Guinea serving as chair. Outgoing chair Mavis Logavatu of Fiji said, "We acknowledge the enabling environment given to us as Pacific women in maritime, internationally, regionally and nationally. The progress of PacWIMA with the establishment of five Women in Maritime Associations during the last 2 years is a testament to our determination."

Participants agreed on the objective, purpose and pillars of a regional strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime endorsed by the Pacific Transport Ministers at the 2017 meeting. They also called on maritime administrations to support national initiatives in the Pacific to progress gender equity in their maritime sector and networks of women in maritime in their own country.

SPC plays an active role supporting PacWIMA and SPC's deputy director Maritime and Oceans, Thierry Nervale said, "We call on maritime administrations across the region to provide all necessary support to women in maritime networks at the regional and national levels to facilitate access for women at the highest levels of the maritime sector."

The PacWIMA executive committee, represented by PNG, Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands, will now work on implementing the agreed workplan and developing a regional strategy for the recognition, visibility and capacity building of women in the Pacific maritime sector. ***(SPC)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2018-2019

On April 03, 2018, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. **The CNMI WIC Program will be implementing the new guidelines effective May 1, 2018.** So please check to see if you now qualify.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines

(Effective from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	$22,459	$1,872	$936	$864	$432
2	30,451	2,538	1,269	1,172	586
3	38,443	3,204	1,602	1,479	740
4	46,435	3,870	1,935	1,786	893
5	54,427	4,536	2,268	2,094	1,047
6	62,419	5,202	2,601	2,401	1,201
7	70,411	5,868	2,934	2,709	1,355
8	78,403	6,534	3,267	3,016	1,508
Each Add'l Member Add	+$7,992	+$666	+$333	+$308	+$154

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information, please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
rtWashington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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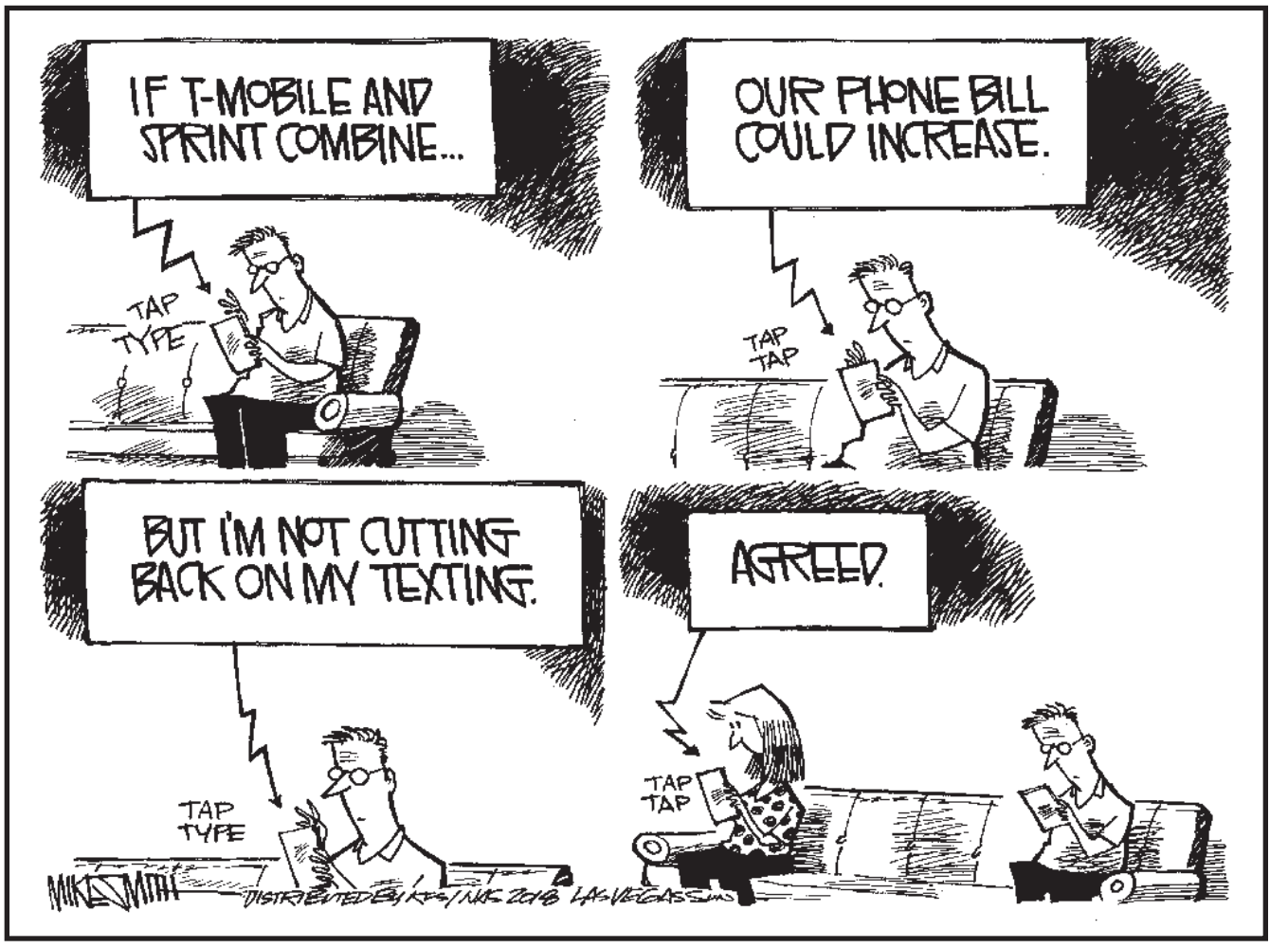

EDITORIAL

Alabama memorial to lynching victims reminds Americans of a shameful past

We must admit up front that we've only seen photos and read stories about the powerful memorial to lynching victims that recently opened in Montgomery, Ala. Those are enough to convince us that the National Memorial for Peace and Justice stands among the most honest and significant markers of shameful corners in America's past.

The six-acre memorial stands on a hill overlooking Alabama's Capitol building, as if to remind all legislators that they must never again allow the law to be usurped by vigilante mobs bent on street justice. The black victims memorialized in Montgomery were people whose crimes, real or imagined, were punished by death without even a cursory hearing in court. Law enforcers often took part in the lynchings or stepped aside in cowardly acquiescence.

The memorial is designed so that visitors must assume the position of those who participated or stood by as observers when the lynchings occurred. Dangling from the ceiling are 800 rusted steel blocks, each symbolizing a hanged and lifeless body. On the bottom of each block is the name of the county where the lynchings occurred. The sides are etched with the names of the victims.

The visitor has only one choice: to look up and absorb the full weight of this injustice, which was repeated more than 4,000 times across the country from the 1870s to the 1950s. Missouri and Illinois played big roles in that sordid history, most notably in St. Clair County in July 1917, when hundreds of angry white laborers formed mobs to murder blacks deemed to have moved to East St. Louis to steal white jobs. The official death toll was 39, although reports at the time suggest it was closer to 100.

In 1943, as Adolf Hitler spread terror across Europe, this newspaper noted that in America, mob rule continued unabated in various parts of the South. In Hattiesburg, Miss., a jury acquitted defendants who lynched a black man because the case was tried under federal civil rights statutes. The defense argued that states' rights superseded any violation of federal rights. The jury bought the argument.

"The outcome of the Hattiesburg trial was a victory for mob law, but the defenders of states' rights at that trial may live to see the day when the failure of states to prevent or punish mob law will bring about the federal intervention they dread," this editorial board presciently argued at the time.

For thousands of lynching victims, that intervention didn't come nearly soon enough. It is our entire nation's shame that mob law was allowed to prevail in even a single instance. That it persisted for decades is horrific.

Just like the hundreds of Holocaust memorials around the world, the lynching victims' memorial in Alabama must serve as America's constant reminder: Never again.

(c)2018 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The right to say awful stuff

We seem to be having a hard time grasping that the right to free expression is meaningful only if we are willing to protect the most disgusting and offensive statements.

Even if you love the American flag, for example, you must understand that someone who does not cannot be arrested or prosecuted for burning it.

"The hard fact is that sometimes we must make decisions we do not like," wrote U.S. Supreme Justice Anthony Kennedy in 1989 when the court ruled 5 to 4 that flag burning is protected speech. "We make them because they are right."

And so, we need to remind ourselves, freedom of expression obtains whether we are talking about a racist display by a student at Cal Poly, a hateful tweet by a left-wing professor at Fresno State, a disgusting Instagram post by a provocative conservative blowhard, or a caustic set by a comedian who is skewering the president, his staff and the White House press corps.

■■■

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, which has been engaged in a heated debate over objectionable speech and its consequences, seemed as good a place as any to have a conversation about what we're willing to tolerate.

I spent an afternoon on campus last week to chat with people about a couple of racist incidents that have convulsed the school and led to protests and a lot of soul searching about how to diversify a California public college campus that is overwhelmingly white, rural and probably a lot more conservative than the other Cal State schools.

You may have seen the news coverage: A white member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity had blackened his face and arms as part of what he claimed was some sort of athletic contest where teams were identified by their color. His was the black team, he said. Someone took his picture and circulated it on social media, prompting him to publicly apologize.

There were other incidents on the campus too. A racist flier found in bathrooms showed members of a second frat posing as Mexican gang members.

But the blackface incident really set people off. Cal Poly's tiny population of black students was rightfully outraged. So were many others.

"I don't know what possessed someone to do something like that," said Sydney Gray, a 20-year-old sophomore who told me she voted for President Trump. "Why didn't his fraternity brothers say something?"

Sergio Dimas, a 21-year-old senior, echoed Gray's dismay: "All it would have taken is for one person to say: 'What are you doing? Go wash your face.' That would have started a conversation, wouldn't it?"

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

In an open letter to the campus community, Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong expressed anguish over that incident and others.

He spelled out many steps the university has recently taken to increase the number of minority students and faculty at Cal Poly, which included hiring Jozi De Leon as the school's vice president for diversity and inclusion.

De Leon's No. 1 goal, she told me, is to increase the representation of minority students on campus, especially African Americans, who are woefully underrepresented and say they don't feel safe on campus.

Armstrong indefinitely suspended all of Cal Poly's fraternities and sororities until they conduct themselves "in a matter that is respectful of all students."

But, he said, he could mete out no punishment to the individuals whose racist behavior provoked this tense moment on the normally placid campus.

"While this may anger and frustrate many," Armstrong wrote, "the laws governing constitutional rights to free speech are unambiguous and unequivocal," even when that speech is "disgusting, racist, sexist, homophobic, or in any other way contradicts our values."

Painful as it may be to say, I agree with him.

Armstrong's decision landed around the same time that a Fresno State University professor found herself under harsh criticism for tweeting some hateful sentiments about former First Lady Barbara Bush, who had just died.

"Barbara Bush was a generous and smart and amazing racist who, along with her husband, raised a war criminal," wrote Randa Jarrar, a tenured Fresno State English professor. "I'm happy the witch is dead. Can't wait for the rest of her family to fall to their demise the way 1.5 million Iraqis have."

Initially, Fresno State President Joseph Castro said Jarrar had gone "beyond free speech," a patently ridiculous statement.

Later, after consulting with legal experts, he came to his senses. "Her comments," Castro said, "although disgraceful, are protected free speech under the 1st Amendment of the

See RIGHT on Next Page

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Cosby's fall puts the spotlight on our cult of celebrity

By DENNIS O'TOOLE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

I had a chance to meet Bill Cosby when I was a little boy. Really, I had a chance to stand on stage with him and a bunch of other kids at an event where he performed.

Celebrities at that point in my life were mostly puppets and cartoons, but Cosby was one of the few famous humans who made an impression on me. As any 3-year-old in 1978 could tell you, he was the brains behind "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids," and therefore quite a big deal.

At the end of his set, Cosby invited all the kids in the audience on stage. My brother and I hopped up immediately, but I got scared so I turned back to my mom.

This moment of toddlerly cowardice became one of my earliest regrets. I mean, I could have been near the genius behind "The Brown Hornet," "Bill Cosby: Himself," "The Cosby Show" and "Bill Cosby: 49." I had a chance to say something silly and cute to him that he would have turned into comedy gold! Man, did I blow it.

Most Americans know what a celebrity is by the age of 3, and as we get older we hang on to a 3-year-old's naivete. We discover someone is exceptionally good at something, and then make a leap to believing they must be capital-G Good in a philosophical, religious and general sense. This assumption turns into an almost uncontrollable urge to befriend the famous athlete, musician, writer and even politician.

As a result of this reckless admiration, we simply cannot imagine great people being annoying or tedious or complicated like the lesser mortals among whom we are doomed to live. We certainly can't believe they are bad people. How could they be, when they can write like that, hit a line drive like that, tell a joke like that?

Cosby went beyond most celebrities, who are usually excellent at what they do and then go home to be good or bad or whatever they are in private. He famously badgered other comedians to stop swearing onstage, and when he was not on tour performing stand-up, he was on tour hectoring black people to behave "properly." However sincere he may have been, it was his skill as an entertainer, not his moral authority, that made us listen when he preached.

The #MeToo movement has brought a reckoning on many famous and gifted men, and I hope it does some damage to America's cult of celebrity too. For many of us, it already has. Questions once confined to grad school seminars on art theory or upper-level English literature courses are now on everyone's mind: Where is the line between art and an artist? Are they separate, or hopelessly interwoven? Can someone enjoy a work of art by an evil person and not be complicit in that person's evil?

For the most part I find it easy to separate the art from the artist. I honed this skill over a decade performing improv. Some of my favorite performers were people I strongly disliked. Knowing talented jerks has inoculated me from the shock of discovering a famous person is not very kind.

Of course, Cosby's crimes are far worse than simply not being cool after a show. And for that, timeless masterpieces like "Bill Cosby: Himself" are likely to be trapped in amber, forever remote from the people who first appreciated them, and doomed to wait decades upon decades for someone with enough detachment to differentiate art from artist.

In 1978, it was fear that turned me away from the celebrity on stage and back into my mother's arms. Cowardice aside, the gesture remains a fine policy: place your trust, your hope and your love with the people closest to you. You know them. The ones on stage? All you know is their talent. Admire that talent—and leave it at that.

Dennis O'Toole is a Chicago writer. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

Facebook wants me to rat out my friends? No thanks.

By LARA WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Some Facebook users were alarmed Tuesday to see a new feature in their news feeds. Under many posts, Facebook had added this question:

"Does this post contain hate speech?" along with two buttons, "Yes" and "No."

A good move by Facebook to help identify and root out all the nastiness of social media? Or an ominous invitation to its users to become informants?

Facebook reportedly disabled the feature after its morning test—which Guy Rosen, Facebook's vice president of product, called "a bug" on Twitter—but not before it sparked immediate concern among users.

Social media sites including Facebook and Twitter have been under intense criticism for allowing fake accounts—many traced to Russia—to manipulate public opinion during the 2016 presidential election and spread hate speech and other messages designed to inflame prejudices and deepen divisions among Americans.

So it's not surprising to see Facebook trying to curtail hate speech among its 2 billion users. But asking people to rat out their friends is not the way to go.

In 2014, China announced a "social credit system" with the goal, according to the government, of "raising the honest mentality and credit levels of the entire society." A more civil society? Sound nice! But who defines what's civil? And what happens to those who don't achieve a perfect score?

China's social credit system is being rolled out now, in various forms, across the country. Citizens are urged to install apps that use face recognition, GPS and other data to track their good behavior—crossing at the light, tossing trash in designated spots, driving at the speed limit, etc.—and also allow users to report other citizens who don't follow the rules. That guy who never picks up after his dog? Snap a picture and ding his score!

The government aims to have the system fully in place by 2020, and participation will be mandatory.

Of course, it's easy to see how an authoritarian government such as China's can implement a system so quickly. For a person with bad social credit, life is tough. Travel is restricted—Channel News Asia reports 9 million people with poor social credit have been barred from buying domestic plane tickets. Internet speeds are slowed down. Children of low scorers are being kept out of better schools.

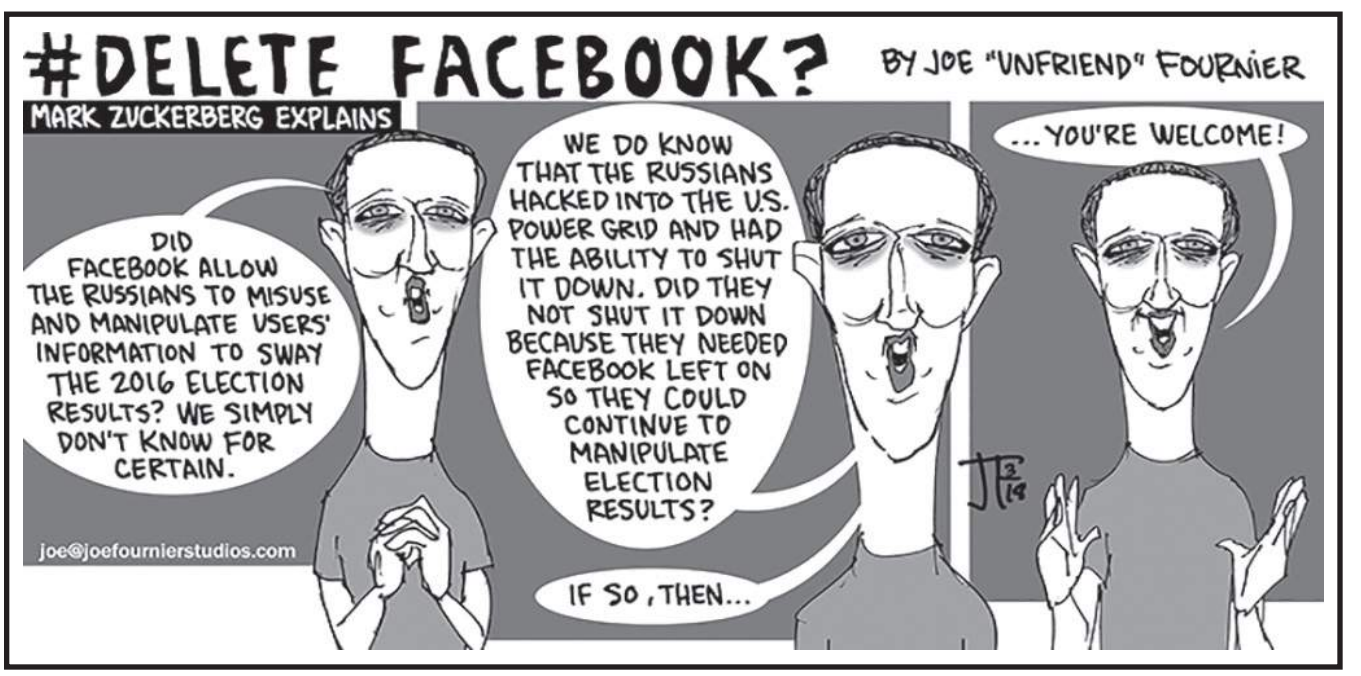
What's more unnerving, though, is how many Chinese have so readily embraced the system voluntarily. Why? Because for high scorers there are immediate rewards—discounts on rent or utility bills, better interest rates at banks, even boosted online dating profiles. If it doesn't sound tempting, consider all the rewards programs Americans already belong to—it isn't so hard to manipulate our behavior either, is it?

If this sounds like Netflix's dystopian series "Black Mirror," you might've seen the "Nosedive" episode, which imagines a world where everyone rates one another on a five-star scale. It doesn't go well.

Facebook hasn't introduced anything (yet) as far-reaching as China's social credit system. But seeing those prompts, which might as well have read, "Want to turn in your friend for spreading hate speech?" raised important alarms.

Proceed with caution, Facebook, because your users may be considering a different question: "Is it time to ditch social media?"

Lara Weber is a member of the Tribune Editorial Board.


#DELETE FACEBOOK?
BY JOE "UNFRIEND" FOURNIER
MARK ZUCKERBERG EXPLAINS
DID FACEBOOK ALLOW THE RUSSIANS TO MISUSE AND MANIPULATE USERS' INFORMATION TO SWAY THE 2016 ELECTION RESULTS? WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN.
WE DO KNOW THAT THE RUSSIANS HACKED INTO THE U.S. POWER GRID AND HAD THE ABILITY TO SHUT IT DOWN. DID THEY NOT SHUT IT DOWN BECAUSE THEY NEEDED FACEBOOK LEFT ON SO THEY COULD CONTINUE TO MANIPULATE ELECTION RESULTS?
IF SO, THEN...
...YOU'RE WELCOME!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

RIGHT

From Page 10

U.S. Constitution."

For a public university, which should be a bastion of free speech, this was the only proper response.

■■■

Which brings us to the odious Milo Yiannopoulos, the white nationalist-supporting, pedophile-excusing provocateur who returned to Cal Poly last week.

Before he arrived, he posted a typically obnoxious selfie on Instagram:

"In honor of Cal Poly's HORRIFIC recent blackface incident I am getting the darkest spray tan possibly before my talk tomorrow—it will make my new white linen suit really POP!"

And then, a beautiful thing happened. Anticipated protests failed to materialize. Milo generated no news.

The same cannot be said for Michelle Wolf, whose perfectly pointed comedy routine at Saturday's White House Correspondents' Assn. dinner was blasted, first by Republicans because she dared make fun of Trump and his spokeswomen Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Kellyanne Conway, and then, shamefully, by the very journalists who had invited her to the roast.

"Last night's program was meant to offer a unifying message about our common commitment to a vigorous and free press while honoring civility, great reporting and scholarship winners, not to divide people," wrote the WHCA's president, Margaret Talev. "Unfortunately, the entertainer's monologue was not in the spirit of the mission."

What a mealy mouthed cave-in from a group whose members pride themselves on speaking truth to power. What a potent illustration of the way Trump's demonization of the media has put journalists on the defensive.

What should Talev have said?

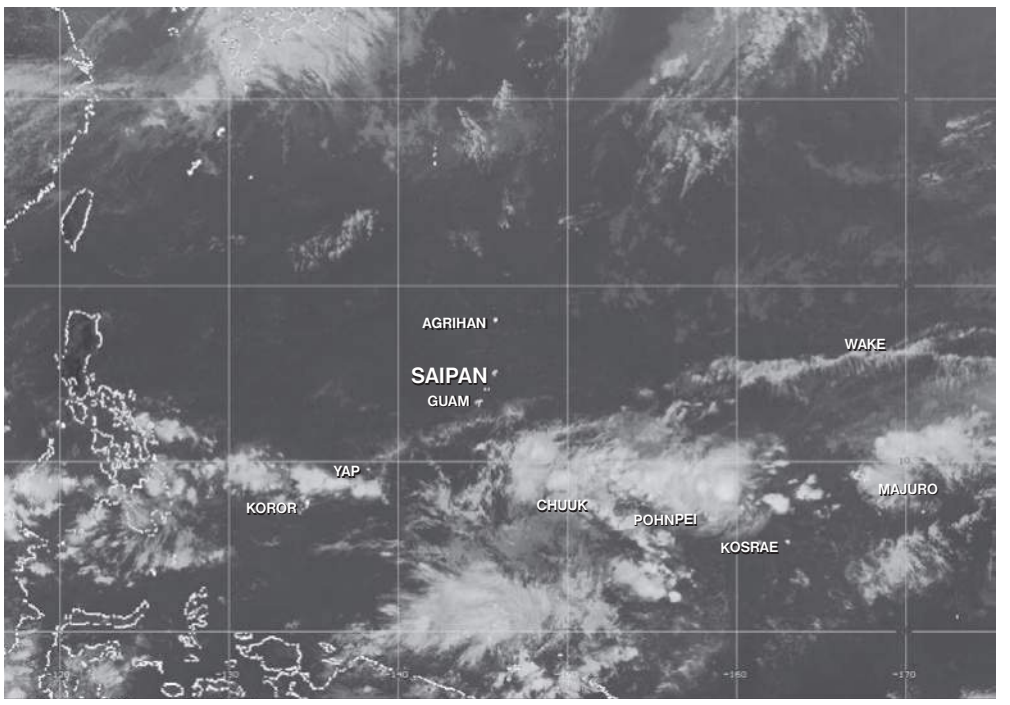
How about this: We understand some people may have been offended, but we support Wolf's right to ply her craft. After all, if we don't stand for freedom of expression—even when it strains the bounds of taste—we stand for nothing at all.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny skies.	A shower or two around the area in the morning, then partly cloudy in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy skies.	A mix of clouds and sun with the chance of an isolated thunderstorm in the afternoon.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:57 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Expect the week ahead to have mixed weather with some days dry and some seeing a little rain.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	84° / 61°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 73°
London	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°
Miami	Windy	80° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 61°
Osaka	Sunny	73° / 59°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	61° / 41°
Busan	Windy	70° / 55°
Rome	Thunderstorm	70° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 58°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	59° / 46°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 69°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.92
8:23 AM	LOW TIDE	1.86
3:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.15
10:12 PM	LOW TIDE	1.86

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:13 AM	9:22 PM
Friday	-	8:59 AM	10:12 PM
Saturday	-	9:48 AM	11:01 PM
Sunday	-	10:36 AM	11:47 PM
Monday	-	11:26 AM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Domenech delivers $6.9M for Guam

HAGATNA—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech and Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula met earlier last week with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Adelup.

Domenech was in Guam to pay his first courtesy visit to the governor since becoming assistant secretary and to deliver $6.9 million dollars in fiscal year 2018 capital improvement project and technical assistance program funding for the territory. Domenech met with Calvo again on Saipan with other leaders at the Micronesian Islands Forum last week.

"[Calvo] and I had some serious discussions about the effect that tax cuts are having on Guam's people and Guam's economy," said Domenech. "[Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke] and I are both impressed by the austerity measures that Guam has undertaken in response to budget cuts and assure that we will do all that we can to help advocate for Guam." added Domenech.

The fiscal year 2018 CIP funds are for the following:

■ **The Department of Parks and Recreation**: $5,620,000 for repairs, renovations and/or upgrades of public gymnasiums, sports facilities, and restroom facilities, including plumbing and electrical repairs of facilities to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to include preventive maintenance work.

■ **The Insular ABCs Initiative**: $1,000,000 for a fourth year of the Insular Area Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms health and safety initiative to address critical deferred maintenance issues throughout Guam's public schools.

The Guam Department of Administration also received $248,000 in TAP funding for the fixed assets software & hardware upgrade project to resolve fixed assets single audit findings. This project will provide resources to improve reconciliation/reporting requirements for construction costs and to provide training for fixed assets personnel as it pertains to compliance with federal and state regulations.

While in Guam, Domenech also paid a courtesy visit on Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Commander Joint Region Marianas. He toured the Guam Memorial Hospital, Southern High School, the Guam Power Authority Wind Turbine, the Micronesian Resource Center One Stop Shop, and other sites that receive support though the Office of Insular Affairs.

He launched his visit on Guam with a visit to the Great Seal of Guam Park and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in honor of National Park Week celebrated this year from April 21 to 29, 2018. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Reunion meeting for MHS Class of '88

This is to inform all graduates of MHS Class of '88 that we will be having our final meeting on May 14, 2018, to discuss our 30th year class reunion for June 29, 2018. Please join us and bring your ideas as to how we can make this night a memorable one. Meeting location will be at Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cepeda's residence in As Lito at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Eleanor Cepeda through MHS Class of 88 WhatsApp group. ***(PR)***

Friends of the Arts to stage *Into the Woods*

The Friends of the Arts last play of the season is the musical *Into the Woods*. The musical will be performed on May 9, 10 and 11, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. All shows starting at 7pm. Tickets prices for all three shows start at $4 for students, $6 for FOA members, and $8 for adults and half-price for all moms! You may purchase tickets at Bridge Capital at their front desk and from members of the play's cast. For more information or ticket reservations, contact Frank Gibson through email atflgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Regional assessment at NBG

SANTA RITA, Guam—A Regional Assessment is scheduled to be conducted on U.S. Naval Base Guam on May 1-4. RASS is part of Commander Naval Installation Command's Navy security force shore assessment and certification cycle. A team from Joint Region Marianas will review all aspects of the installation's emergency services. The Force Protection Condition may be elevated requiring full ID card checks at the gates. Additionally, the Trusted Traveler program—a program that authorizes DoD ID card holders to escort guests onto NBG—may be suspended during the higher FPCON. As part of the assessment, the NBG Giant Voice system may be activated, and residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers may hear announcements. ***(PR)***

Registration open for 2018 Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 18th Annual Corporate Challenge on May 27, 2018 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe and is now accepting teams for registration. Aside from team building, the event aims to raise funds for the SCC Education Scholarships and similar programs. Deadline for registration is on May 11, 2018, at 5pm. Slots are limited to the first 14 registered teams. For more information, call 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting federation to hold fundraiser

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold its 1st Sports Fundraising event on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at the Roundhouse, Garapan Central Park, from 8am to 2pm. There will be food, drinks, books, arts, crafts, clothes and many other items for sale. The event is being planned to become an annual fundraiser. ***(PR)***

VA sets town hall meeting

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having a town hall meeting on Tinian today, May 3, from 9:30am to 11:30am, at the Mayor of Tinian's conference room, hosted by the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System director Jennifer Gutowski. This will be to share information, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA healthcare. All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend. Point of contact is Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. The town hall meeting for Saipan and Rota were held on May 1 and 2. ***(PR)***

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019:

■ Kindergarten: starting on April 16, 2018

■ 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. ***(PR)***

NMI Museum of History & Culture–
Chamorro and Carolinian Center
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NMI Museum
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BOUTIQUE
STAGE
New Landscaping: Royal Palm and Silver Palm
Donated Containers ITE and Saipan Shipping
Landscaping and New Royal Palm Trees
Office Converted to Storage: Concepcion Vases
New Storage: Ancient Chamorro and Carolinian Remains

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WHERE: NMI MUSEUM (ACROSS SUGAR KING PARK GARAPAN)
WHEN: FRIDAY, MAY 4TH, 2018
TIME: 10:00AM

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Business

White House delays a trade war but intensifies uncertainty

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House's on-again, off-again tariffs are heightening uncertainty for U.S. companies that buy steel and aluminum and the foreign companies that supply them.

And major American allies, from Europe to Canada and Mexico, are signaling increasing resentment.

Delivering its second reprieve for steel and aluminum imports, the Trump administration late Monday postponed the tariffs that had been set to take effect Tuesday. But it decided to limit the delay to 30 days. After that, no one knows what the administration will do.

"It's nice to have a little breather," said John McDonald, an executive at Trans-Matic Manufacturing, a supplier of precision metal components in Holland, Michigan, which buys $16.5 million in steel annually, some of it from Finland, the Netherlands, Russia and Taiwan.

But "the uncertainty is going to continue," McDonald said. "We're struggling with supply availability, lead times."

With the potential conflict only delayed, the European Union, which has vowed to slap tariffs on American bourbon, motorcycles, blue jeans and other goods if the U.S. taxes its steel and aluminum, warned that it won't "negotiate under threat."

AP
People take their seats before U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer speaks at the 9th China Business Conference at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

The delay comes just as the United States prepares for high-stakes trade talks with China this week over Beijing's efforts to challenge U.S. technological dominance.

The rift with the EU and other allies stems from the Trump administration's decision in March to impose tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports. In doing so, it made the unusual claim that a dependence on imported metals posed a national security threat to the United States.

But it soon backed off, for a time. It granted the EU, Mexico and Canada exemptions from the tariffs that were to expire Tuesday before they were extended for a month at the last minute.

Separately, the United States has reached a deal with South Korea, which agreed to limit steel shipments to the U.S. in exchange for being spared the tariffs. Some analysts suspect that the Trump trade team hopes to pressure the EU and others to accept quotas on their steel exports to the United States as the price for having the tariffs lifted.

Speaking Tuesday at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer avoided saying whether the administration would be willing to extend again the one-month delay in the tariffs. Lighthizer also said "we more or less have an agreement" to permanently exempt Argentina, Australia and Brazil from the metals tariffs.

The U.S. is seeking to use the tariff threat to pressure Canada and Mexico to rewrite the North American Free Trade Agreement more to President Donald Trump's liking. Among other things, Trump wants to see more auto production moved to the United States.

But Chad Bown, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, says "Canada and Mexico look at the NAFTA negotiations as a long-term deal. They're not going to take shortcuts and agree to a bad deal that has long-term implications" just to escape the immediate threat of steel and aluminum tariffs.

California ruling a 'seismic shift' for gig economy workers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California Supreme Court ruling that would limit businesses from classifying workers as independent contractors who aren't eligible for certain benefits and employment protections was hailed as a big victory for labor and could shake up the state's so-called gig economy.

The unanimous ruling Monday in a case involving package delivery drivers adopted a broad definition for those who qualify as employees in a lawsuit likely to expand the number of workers eligible for minimum wage, rest breaks and other benefits under state wage laws.

Here are some questions and answers about the ruling and its impact on businesses that employ independent contractors:

WHAT DID THE RULING FIND?

The court put the burden on California employers to prove a worker is an independent contractor.

To do so, the company would have to pass each part of a three-prong test, known as the ABC standard, to prove a worker is an independent contractor: The worker is free of control and direction; the work is outside the course of business for which the work is performed, such as a plumber hired by a store to repair a leaky faucet; and the worker is engaged in an independently established trade or occupation.

"It seems like a seismic shift," said Veena Dubal, professor at University of California, Hastings law school. "I'm pretty floored by this decision."

HOW MUCH IMPACT WILL THE RULING HAVE FOR WORKERS CURRENTLY CLASSIFIED AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS?

The ruling is specific only to California, but it mirrors employment standards already adopted in Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Its impact in California will depend on how many workers decide to challenge their employment status. In order for the ruling to be applied, workers will have to go to court or arbitration to press their cases.

As a practical matter, only those who claim they aren't making minimum wage or are being deprived overtime or other benefits would file legal cases. But the ruling lowers the bar for those workers to prove their cases and lawyers will have greater incentive to represent them, Dubal said.

She noted that other states could adopt a similar approach to determine who is an employee.

"I think a bunch of states are going to jump on this ABC bandwagon," Dubal said. "People, particularly in other blue states, look to California for interpretation of laws like this."

Zuckerberg pledges to 'keep building' in no-apology address

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—With a smile that suggested the hard part of an "intense year" may be behind him, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg addressed developers Tuesday and pledged the company will build its way out of its worst-ever privacy debacle.

It was a clear and deliberate turning point for a company that's been hunkered down since mid-March. For first time in several weeks, Zuckerberg went before a public audience and didn't apologize for the Cambridge Analytica scandal, in which a political data-mining firm accessed data from as many as 87 million Facebook accounts for the purpose of influencing elections. Or for a deluge of fake news and Russian election interference.

Instead, Zuckerberg sought to project a "we're all in this together" mood that was markedly different from his demeanor during 10 hours of congressional testimony just a few weeks ago. His presentation also marked a major change for the company, which seems relieved to be largely done with the damage control that has preoccupied it for the past six weeks.

On Tuesday, speaking in San Jose, California, at the F8 gathering of software developers, Zuckerberg said to cheers that the company is re-opening app reviews, the process that gets new and updated apps on its services, which Facebook had shut down in late March as a result of the privacy scandal.

Zuckerberg then vowed to "keep building," and reiterated that Facebook is investing a lot in security and in strengthening its systems so they can't be exploited to meddle with elections, including the U.S. midterms later this year. The company had previously announced almost all of those measures.

"The hardest decision I made wasn't to invest in safety and security," Zuckerberg said. "The hard part was figuring out how to move forward on everything else we need to do too."

He also unveiled a new feature that gives users the ability to clear their browsing history from the platform, much the same way people can do in web browsers. Then Zuckerberg returned to techno-enthusiasm mode.

Facebook executives trotted out fun features, most notably a new dating service aimed at building "meaningful, long-term relationships," in a swipe at sites like Tinder. After Facebook announced its entry into the online dating game, shares of Tinder owner Match Group Inc. plummeted 22 percent.

Poking fun at himself, Zuckerberg unveiled a "Watch Party" feature that gives users the ability to watch video together—such as, he suggested, "your friend testifying before Congress." Up flashed video of Zuckerberg's own turn on Capitol Hill.

"Let's not do that again soon," he said.

Zuckerberg did "remarkably well in a really rough environment," said Ben Parr, co-founder of Octane AI, a startup that helps companies market their wares on Facebook's Messenger app. "I think it helped a lot that he was joking, he was confident and he was comfortable."

Facebook's next actions will speak far louder than anything Zuckerberg during his 35-minute presentation Tuesday, predicted Cubeyou CEO Federico Treu, who is battling Facebook over what he believes was the unjustified suspension of his company app in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

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Canadian Dollar	1.2836	Japanese Yen	109.7370	South Korean Won	1056.00
Chinese Yuan	6.2685	Malaysian Ringgit	3.8849	Swiss Franc	0.9964
Euro	0.8333	New Zealand Dollar	1.4272	Taiwan Dollar	29.3577
		Philippine Peso	50.9431	Thailand Baht	31.7025

Nation

Next steps for caravan will unfold mostly out of public view

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—The caravan of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States sought the world's attention as scores of migrants traveled through Mexico on a journey to escape their violent homelands.

Now that the group has arrived at the border, the next steps in their journey will unfold mostly out of public view.

The caravan first drew attention in the U.S. when President Donald Trump promised that his administration would seek to turn the families away. The rest of the asylum-seeking process will happen slowly and secretively in immigration courts.

Dan Kowalski, editor of Bender's Immigration Bulletin, said the public will "probably see very little (of the caravan cases) unless the applicant is represented and the attorney makes an effort to bring the client into the limelight."

A total of 28 caravan members were accepted for processing Monday and Tuesday by U.S. border inspectors at San Diego's San Ysidro crossing, an official with U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. The crossing, the nation's busiest, processed about 50 asylum seekers a day from October through February, suggesting the wait will be short.

Under U.S. asylum practices, people spend up to three days at the border inspection facility before being transferred to a long-term detention center. An asylum officer interviews them for an initial screening, usually within a week or so, to determine if their cases should advance to immigration court, which can take several years.

The courts often conduct business behind closed doors. Files are not public, and, unlike criminal or civil courts, access for journalists and others is limited.

The caravan's numbers, while tiny compared to previous surges of Central Americans to South Texas and Haitians to San Diego, will be a test of Trump's tough words. Administration officials have railed against what they call legal loopholes and "catch-and-release" policies that allow people seeking asylum to be freed while their cases are adjudicated, but any significant changes must be addressed by Congress or in the courts.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has pledged to send more immigration judges to the border if needed and threatened criminal prosecution. On Monday, the Justice Department said it filed illegal-entry charges against 11 people identified as caravan members.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said asylum claims will be resolved "efficiently and expeditiously." She also warned that anyone making false claims could be prosecuted and said asylum seekers should seek protection in the first safe country they reach, including Mexico.

U.S. attorneys who counseled asylum seekers in Tijuana warned that they could be separated from family and spend many months in detention, a shift from the Obama administration.

AP

Members of a Central American family traveling with a caravan of migrants prepare to cross the border and apply for asylum in the United States, in Tijuana, Mexico, Sunday, April 29, 2018.

Genetic website subpoenaed in California serial killer probe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators hunting for the so-called Golden State Killer subpoenaed a genetic website last year while investigating an Oregon man who was misidentified as a potential suspect.

The revelation that investigators compelled a genetic company to provide user information adds to a growing debate about legal and privacy concerns involving law enforcement and companies whose millions of users submit their DNA to discover their heritage.

Court records obtained by The Associated Press last week showed investigators persuaded a judge in Clackamas County, Oregon, a year ago to order a 73-year-old man in a nursing home to provide a DNA sample.

Investigators compared crime-scene DNA linked to the serial killer to information on a free online genealogical site, YSearch.org. They said they spotted a rare genetic marker that the Oregon man shared with the killer who is believed to be responsible for 12 killings and nearly 50 rapes in the 1970s and 80s.

The website's parent company, which also owns FamilyTreeDNA.com, said Tuesday it received a subpoena the same month that "sought limited information, with respect to a single user account" from federal investigators in California.

The company, Gene-by-Gene Ltd., said it complied with the subpoena "to the minimum degree legally required" but didn't notify the user because it didn't want to interfere with the investigation.

Court documents said there was only one match among more than 189,000 searchable genetic records on the website. The documents identified a specific user ID, the user's first name and the most distant paternal relative in the family tree.

Gene-by-Gene wouldn't say whether the subpoena specifically identified that person, citing its privacy policy.

A company spokeswoman told the AP last week it hadn't been contacted by law enforcement, but later disclosed the subpoena after a further review of company records.

The Oregon City man is in extremely poor health in a rehabilitation facility and was unable to answer questions Friday. His daughter said his family wasn't initially aware authorities took his DNA but later worked with the FBI before investigators ultimately determined none of her relatives were viable suspects

Detectives turned to a different genealogical site and arrested a man last week who they say was one of California's most elusive serial killers.

Joseph James DeAngelo, a 72-year-old former police officer, was charged with eight counts of murder, and additional charges are expected. He didn't enter a plea when he appeared in court Friday.

On Tuesday, the AP and several other news organizations filed a motion to unseal DeAngelo's arrest warrant and the search warrants detectives obtained, citing the public's longstanding right to access court records and immense public interest in the case.

Attorney: Mueller team floated possible subpoena for Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)–The special counsel leading the Russia investigation raised the prospect in March of issuing a grand jury subpoena for President Donald Trump, his former attorney said Tuesday, confirming that investigators have floated the extraordinary idea of forcing a sitting president to testify under oath.

Attorney John Dowd told The Associated Press that special counsel Robert Mueller's team broached the subject during a meeting with Trump's legal team while they were negotiating the terms of a possible interview with the president.

It was not immediately clear in what context the possibility of a subpoena was raised or how serious Mueller's prosecutors were about the move. Mueller is probing not only Russian election interference and possible coordination with Trump associates but possible obstruction of justice by Trump.

Even if Mueller's team decided to subpoena Trump as part of the investigation, he could still fight it in court or refuse to answer questions by invoking his Fifth Amendment protection from self-incrimination.

Dowd's comments come more than a month after he resigned from the legal team, and they provide a new window into the nature of the Trump lawyers' interactions with the special counsel, whom the president has increasingly tried to undermine through public attacks.

On Tuesday, Trump said it was "disgraceful" that a list of proposed questions drafted in response to Mueller's negotiations with the legal team was "leaked" to the news media.

The about four dozen questions were compiled by Trump's lawyers during negotiations with Mueller's investigators earlier this year over the prospect of a presidential interview.

A person familiar with the matter, who insisted on anonymity to discuss ongoing negotiations, told the AP that the president's lawyers extrapolated the list of expected questions based off conversations with Mueller's team about the topics prosecutors wanted to cover in a potential sit down with Trump. The questions reflected what the defense lawyers anticipated Trump would be asked, rather than verbatim queries that Mueller's team provided, the person said.

The Washington Post first reported that Mueller's team raised the possibility of a subpoena for Trump. The New York Times first published the list of questions.

According to the list, the questions range from Trump's motivations for firing FBI Director James Comey a year ago to contacts Trump's campaign had with Russians. Although Mueller's team has indicated to Trump's lawyers that he's not considered a target, investigators remain interested in whether the president's actions constitute obstruction of justice and want to interview him about several episodes in office. They have not yet made a decision about an interview.

In his tweet, Trump said there were "no questions on Collusion" and, as he as many times before, called Mueller's investigation a "Russian witch hunt." He said collusion with the Russians "never existed."

Asia

Leaders of S. Korea, Japan, China to discuss N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Leaders of South Korea, Japan and China will meet next week for a summit expected to focus on North Korea's nuclear program and other regional issues.

The three Asian countries have been holding regular trilateral summits since late 2008. Next week's summit, the seventh, comes amid a flurry of high-profile diplomatic contacts aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

Last week, the leaders of North and South Korea met at a border village and agreed on a number of steps aimed at reconciliation. Their summit, however, didn't produce a breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear issue. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump are expected to meet in several weeks.

South Korea's presidential office said Tuesday that President Moon Jae-in will attend next Wednesday's meeting in Tokyo with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

The Japanese government confirmed the meeting.

"I believe it will be an extremely important summit. I plan to have heart-to-heart talks with President Moon and Premier Li," Abe said while visiting Jordan. "I hope to discuss thoroughly how we can get North Korea to walk on the right path" and resolve the nuclear and missile issues comprehensively, he said .

Moon's office said he will brief Abe and Li about the results of his summit with Kim. It said Moon also plans to discuss ways to boost three-way cooperation toward achieving denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea, Japan and China are closely linked economically and are also members of now-stalled regional disarmament talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program. But anti-Japan sentiment still runs deep in South Korea and China because of territorial and historical disputes dating back to Tokyo's colonization of the Korean Peninsula and invasion of China in the first half of the 20th century. Further complicating their relations, Seoul and Tokyo are key U.S. allies, while Beijing is North Korea's last major ally.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN expert expresses grave concern over Myanmar fighting

BANGKOK (AP)—A United Nations rights expert expressed grave concern Tuesday over reports that Myanmar's military has used heavy weapons and conducted aerial bombings in civilian areas as fighting against ethnic rebels in northern Kachin state has escalated sharply. While the world focuses on the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, a civil war has flared against the Kachin Independence Army, with thousands of civilians displaced from their villages near the Chinese border, according to the United Nations. The U.N. special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, said the situation in Kachin state "is wholly unacceptable, and must stop immediately." "Civilians must never be subjected to violence during the course of conflict," she said in a statement. "All parties must take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and security." The Kachin, who are mostly Christian, have fought for greater autonomy in the predominantly Buddhist nation since 1961. Their campaign is part of a much broader struggle for power pitting the ethnic Burman majority—who control the all-powerful military and top government posts—against dozens of ethnic minorities.

Australian cardinal faces 2 trials on sexual abuse charges

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Australian Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Vatican official to be charged in the Catholic Church sex abuse crisis, will face two trials within months on sex crime allegations spanning decades, a court heard on Wednesday. Pell appeared for an administrative first hearing in the Victoria state County Court where he will be tried after a magistrate on Tuesday decided he should face a jury but dismissed around half the charges the cleric had faced during a preliminary hearing in a lower court. His lawyer Robert Richter said on Wednesday he had agreed with prosecutors to split the remaining charges into two trials. The charges relating to Pell's time as a priest in his hometown of Ballarat in the 1970s and those relating to his time as archbishop of Melbourne in the 1990s were "of a completely different nature" and "separated by 20 years," Richter told Judge Sue Pullen. Details of the charges and their number have not been made public. Pell also wanted the first trial to start soon for several reasons, Richter said. "Number one, my client is 76 years old and number two, everyone has to get on with their lives," Richter said. Richter also noted that one of the witnesses was 80 years old. Pell has taken leave from his Vatican job as Pope Francis' finance minister and plans to return to it once he is acquitted.

Police say suspected rebels fatally shoot 3 men in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Suspected militants shot and killed three men in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said Tuesday, as the disputed region observed a strike to protest the killing of two rebels and a civilian this week during an Indian counterinsurgency operation. Three suspected insurgents fired at the three local men overnight in the town of Baramulla, police said. The victims, ranging in age from 20 to 25, were shot at close range and died instantly. Baramulla is about 60 kilometers (37 miles) west of Srinagar, the main city in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. No rebel group has claimed responsibility for the deaths of the men. Police officer Imtiyaz Husain said they were investigating the motive behind the killings but blamed the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Universal Studios Japan coaster stalls with riders hanging

TOKYO (AP)—Sixty-four passengers were left hanging in the air for up to two hours after a roller coaster made an emergency stop Tuesday at Universal Studios Japan. The amusement park said the Flying Dinosaur rollercoaster's two carriages stalled midway through the 1,100-meter (yard) ride, with riders suspended in a flying position about 30 meters (100 feet) above the ground. The Osaka park, packed with holiday makers during Japan's "Golden Week" series of holidays, said all of the riders were evacuated safely. The last passenger had to wait two hours before being brought down. The park apologized and said the problem was caused by a motor-regulating device on the rails. The ride resumed operation after repairs and safety checks.

World

Netanyahu nuke presentation gets cool reception in Europe

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's latest accusations about Iran's past nuclear activities received a warm welcome in Washington but a far cooler reception in Europe on Tuesday—deepening divisions among Western allies ahead of President Donald Trump's decision on whether to withdraw from the international nuclear deal later this month.

AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presents material on Iranian nuclear weapons development during a press conference in Tel Aviv, Monday, April 30 2018.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. would discuss Israel's newest purported evidence with the other global powers that negotiated the 2015 nuclear deal. But Britain said the information reinforced the need to keep the deal in place.

The U.N. nuclear agency said it considered the matter of whether Iran had previously pursued nuclear weapons to be "closed."

Netanyahu has been an outspoken critic of the deal, which offered Iran relief from crippling international sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. Netanyahu says the deal will not prevent Iran, Israel's most bitter enemy, from reaching a nuclear weapons capability.

After clashing with President Barack Obama when the deal was negotiated, Netanyahu has found a close ally in Trump, who has called the agreement "the worst deal ever." Trump has signaled he will withdraw from the agreement by May 12 if it is not renegotiated and changed.

Netanyahu's presentation late Monday, delivered in English on live TV and making heavy use of visual aids, appeared to be aimed at swaying global opinion ahead of Trump's decision.

He unveiled what he said was a "half ton" of Iranian nuclear documents he said were illicitly seized by Israeli intelligence. Netanyahu said the documents provided evidence that Iran attempted to develop a nuclear bomb in the previous decade, especially before 2003.

Although he gave no explicit evidence that Iran has violated the 2015 deal, he said Iran had clearly lied in the past and could not be trusted. Iran has denied ever pursuing nuclear arms.

Speaking on Fox News Tuesday, Netanyahu said Israel had obtained the documents in February and shared all of the information with the U.S.

Netanyahu said the trove of documents showed that Iran is "trying to bamboozle the entire world" and expressed hope that Trump would pull out of the deal.

Pompeo, who was returning to the U.S. after his first official visit to the Middle East, said he had discussed the material with Netanyahu during a stop in Israel this week and would raise the matter with European allies.

He said the documents showed Iran sought nuclear weapons and hid a vast archive of information from the world and the U.N. nuclear agency.

"What this means is the deal was not constructed on a foundation of good faith or transparency. It was built on Iran's lies," he said.

Twin blasts at mosque in northern Nigeria kill at least 28

YOLA, Nigeria (AP)—A pair of explosions killed at least 28 worshippers at a mosque in northeastern Nigeria and wounded at least 56 others, with many of the victims caught in the second blast while trying to flee, police said Tuesday.

The attack in Mubi town came a day after President Muhammadu Buhari met with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House and discussed the threat from the Nigeria-based Boko Haram extremist group. Its fighters were quickly blamed for Tuesday's blasts.

This is the second time in six months that dozens have been killed in an attack on a Mubi mosque. In November, a teenage suicide bomber attacked worshippers as they gathered for morning prayers, killing at least 50 people in one of the region's deadliest assaults in years.

One resident, Isa Danladi, said he had been about to leave his house near the mosque when he heard the blast.

"The mosque roof was blown off and the prayer was midway when the bomber, who was obviously in the congregation, detonated his explosives," Danladi said. "This is obviously the work of Boko Haram."

The National Emergency Management Agency coordinator in Adamawa state, Imam Abbani Garki, said 18 people were critically wounded and had been evacuated for treatment in Yola city.

Haruna Hamman Furo, the head of the state emergency management agency, called the attack "devastating."

Boko Haram briefly took over Mubi in late 2014 as its fighters rampaged across northeastern Nigeria, seizing towns and villages in its quest to establish a hard-line Islamic state.

The military and civilian militia ousted the extremists from the town, which is a commercial hub near the border with Cameroon.

In recent months, Boko Haram activity has been concentrated in the far north of Adamawa state, around Madagali, near the border with Borno state. That area is not far from the Sambisa Forest area where the extremists had a stronghold.

Boko Haram fighters are also said to be hiding in the Mandara mountains to the east near Cameroon.

Focus

Chinese influx transforming Myanmar's quintessential city

AP

This Nov. 2, 2017, photo shows a Chinese temple in the heart of Mandalay, one of many in the city. The road outside is lined with buildings owned by the Chinese. As China's shadow grows in Southeast Asia, residents of Myanmar's former royal capital are lamenting an influx of Chinese migrants.

MANDALAY, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's last royal capital harbored the most learned Buddhist monks and exquisite artists, citizens speaking the most refined Burmese and cooks who prepared the best curries in the land. Mandalay was rhapsodized as the nation's cultural core.

Today, along the grand moat of the former royal palace, Chinese music rings out as people perform tai chi exercises, a sign of an uneasy transformation taking place in Myanmar's second-largest city. This once quintessential Burmese metropolis, residents say, is losing its traditions as a massive influx of Chinese migrants reshapes it in their own likeness.

"I feel that I am no longer a resident of Mandalay," says Nyi Nyi Zaw, a 30-year-old journalist, adding that problems between Burmese and Chinese caused by the changing dynamics have become a staple of his reporting. "They (Chinese people) look like the residents. They have money, so they have the power."

This makeover of Mandalay—located about 300 kilometers (185 miles) from China's Yunnan province and at the crossroads of trade, transport and smuggling routes—reflects a Chinese footprint across Southeast Asia that has grown alongside Beijing's economic and military clout. And it is one that is expected to widen as China pushes forward with its One Belt, One Road initiative to link Eurasian nations via land and sea routes.

Propelled by Beijing's policy of encouraging Chinese enterprises to expand abroad as well as official Chinese government investment in its neighbors' infrastructure, the influx has sparked a measure of prosperity in some impoverished Southeast Asian regions. But along with it has come local resentment, sometimes anger, at perceived Chinese aggressiveness, cultural insensitivity and environmental damage.

Chinese have been drawn to Southeast Asia for centuries, with waves of migrants fleeing war, revolution and starvation in the first half of the 20th century. While most of them came with little more than the shirts on their backs, many of the latest migrants are arriving with cash and savvy.

"Out of the 10 top entrepreneurs in Mandalay, seven are Chinese," says Win Htay, vice president of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He says Chinese in the city own everything from small noodle shops to expensive commercial buildings.

He estimates some 60 percent of Mandalay's economy, including the key industries, is now in Chinese hands.

Next to Laos' capital, Vientiane, Chinese are building a virtually new city on more than 300 hectares (741 acres) of government-provided land that is expected to cater to an influx of migrants coming to work on Chinese-backed infrastructure projects reshaping the once sleepy town on the banks of the Mekong River.

Residents of Sihanoukville are calling Cambodia's only seaport "China Town" as more Chinese corner real estate and settle in a country that has turned from the West toward Beijing, now its key political and economic supporter.

Spearheaded by a surge of Chinese tourists, condominiums and second homes marketed to mainlanders are sprouting in the northern Thailand hub of Chiang Mai, along with both legal and illegal businesses catering to their needs. A tourist with no knowledge of Thai or English can now hire an unlicensed Chinese taxi driver or even a bodyguard.

Chinese investment has increased sharply in Malaysia, sparking concerns over sovereignty. In addition to mega ventures including a $100 billion property development project, Chinese state-linked firms have also bought assets linked to the indebted 1MDB state fund, which was set up by Prime Minister Najib Razak and is being investigated by the U.S and other countries for embezzlement and money laundering. Opposition leaders have used the influx of Chinese money as an issue in the May 9 general election, warning that the government is selling off the country—a claim dismissed by Najib.

In Mandalay, anti-Chinese jibes have become a staple of workaday conversation. Cartoons, comedy routines and literature label the country the "Chinese Republic of the Union of Myanmar" and the city as "Mandalay, Yunnan." A popular song—"The Death of Mandalay"—laments what Mandalay has become: "The city where I was born is no longer there/Who are these people in the city?"

While a Chinese community has long existed in Mandalay, a new wave flocked to snap up swaths of cheap vacant land following massive fires that tore through the city's core in the 1980s. As isolationist Myanmar opened up in the 1990s, Chinese entrepreneurs also took advantage of low interest rates at home and high ones in Myanmar to invest in real estate. Others are involved in shadier areas such as the jade trade and narcotics trafficking.

Since foreigners are not allowed to own land or enjoy other privileges, a large but unknown number of Chinese have obtained Burmese citizenship through bribes to Myanmar immigration officials or outright forgery of documents, Burmese businessmen and local journalists say.

The result has been soaring real estate values that have forced many locals to move to the city's outskirts.

"If we can't enact laws and take effective action on immigration, we will see a continuation of the Chinese influx because this area is good for them," says Win Htay, who also heads a large sugar company.

The ease with which Chinese are able to illegally obtain citizenship contrasts with the plight of the Rohingya, a Muslim minority group at the heart of an ongoing refugee crisis who despite having lived in Myanmar for generations are denied citizenship.

Some take a balanced view of the Chinese presence in Mandalay, frequently reported as high as 50 percent of the city's 1.2 million inhabitants, although estimates are unreliable given the undocumented status of many and depending on how assimilated ethnic Chinese are counted.

In Loving Memory of

Ereong Samil

DOB: August 24, 1919
Died: April 17, 2018

She now joins her:

Sons: Hideo Omelau
Mermacheos Omelau
Merilang Samil

Daughters: Hideko Omelau
Mellomes Samil

Grandchildren: Chuck Elwais
Elizer Elwais

Her loving memories will always be remembered in the hearts of her:

Children:
Alfonso Samil & Family
Elwais Samil & Family
Ellena Sutton & Family
Dilubch Samil & Family

She is additionally survived by her
Grandchildren (14) ,
Great grandchildren (19),
& Great great grandchildren (2)

On Friday, May 4, 2018 at 7:30 a.m., her remains will be transported from CHCC to her residence in Capitol Hill, and will proceed thereafter to SDA Church in Quarter Master Road behind SDA Dental Clinic for viewing & last respects until 11:00 a.m. Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Her remains will leave the church at 12:00p.m. and proceed to Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank you, Sulang
Children & Families

Environment

Will rising seas eventually devour California's beachfront homes?

By JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

TNS
Image of the sperm whale that appeared stranded near the lighthouse of Cabo de Palos on February 27, 2018.

SAN DIEGO—California regulators are urging local elected officials to brace for retreat as scientists continue to predict sea levels will rise in coming decades and pummel beachfront communities from San Diego to Arcata.

With the prospect of ever more harrowing storms and flooding brought on by climate change, officials say cities and towns need to start planning as soon as possible to eventually abandon or relocate everything from highways to underground utilities to beachfront homes.

"The reality is seas are rising, eroding and inundating our coast and, in some places, that means homes and critical infrastructure will be lost," said Jack Ainsworth, executive director for the California Coastal Commission.

"Just look at the apartment buildings leaning off the crumbling cliffs of Pacifica or the homes tumbling onto Gleason Beach," he added. "These are windows into California's future, and we must plan for that."

This message hasn't been well received in some coastal communities, where local leaders and landowners say they have no intention of sacrificing private property to the ocean.

Under ratcheting pressure from the Coastal Commission, Del Mar, for example, has agreed to pay lip service to the idea of retreat, mentioning it in a sea-level rise adaption plan required by the state.

However, local officials said they will try every other option — specifically, dumping massive amounts of sand on their beach — before even drafting a strategy to purchase and ultimately demolish homes and businesses hemmed in by the San Dieguito Lagoon and the Pacific Ocean.

"Managed retreat is not feasible for us," said Del Mar Mayor Dwight Worden. "The best strategy is to build up a good wide beach. That's feasible, and we can make it work up to 3 feet of sea level rise."

Conservative estimates range from about 1 to 4 feet of sea-level rise by the end of the century. Although experts warn that it could be as much as 8 feet, depending on how fast ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica melt.

Some cities, such as Imperial Beach, have taken a different tack, engaging in hard conversations about when and how to start retiring homes expected to be threatened by rising tides.

The city experimented with so-called beach nourishment in 2012 with mixed results. Now, officials say they're looking at strategies for managed retreat, such as buying and renting out homes to recoup costs before flooding increases.

"Doing our economic impact study we identified many options for (addressing) sea level rise, and the most cost-effective thing we can do is managed retreat," said Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina. "The more that we work with nature and not against it, the more successful we are."

Dumping sand on shorelines can be costly and is expected to get even pricier as cities increasingly complete for the limited resource to save their beaches. Solana Beach and Encinitas, for example, plan to spend $165 million over the next 50 years to add sand to their shores.

Beach "nourishments," as they are called, are also not guaranteed to work. Researchers at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography are still trying to get a handle on how and when to use the strategy.

Sand poured on the shores of Torrey Pines in 2001 washed away after just one storm. On the other hand, projects in Solana Beach and Cardiff in 2012 used a coarser grain sand and have proven somewhat resilient, even through El Nino-driven weather two years ago.

"We still have a lot to learn about how these beach nourishments behave," said Scripps researcher Bonnie Ludka. "We've found that they can behave drastically different. Beaches are really dynamic, and they change from year to year."

Despite this uncertainty, Del Mar seems set on a strategy of beefing up its shoreline with sand, in part because buying opulent coastal homes would prove potentially more expensive, at least in the short term. Much of the northern part of Del Mar sits at very low elevation, meaning retreat could require the city purchase dozens, if not hundreds, of residences.

It would also meaning coming to terms with the possibility of losing some of the city's most historic housing tracts. The notion has rattled many citizens, including longtime resident Kim Fletcher, whose home pushes right up against the shore.

"It scares everybody here," said the 90-year-old. "Of course, I won't be here, but I've got grandchildren and great grandchildren."

Fletcher said he thinks the concerns about sea level rise are overblown.

"I won't be around to pay, but I'll bet you a million dollars these houses will still be around in 100 years," he said.

Another concern for residents has been the potential impact on property values if buyers find out that homes are slated to eventually be scooped up by the city using eminent domain. Laura DeMarco, who owns property in the area, said she wants the city to focus all its resources on maintaining the community in its current form.

"What they're asking us to do is amputation," she said. "Why should we plan to give up? Why should we plan to surrender? There are a lot of things that can be done that preserve our economic vitality and the culture of Del Mar."

Many towns and cities along the coast will likely soon be having similar conversations as the Coastal Commission oversees the creation of dozens of plans to adapt to sea level rise.

And the commission has leverage. If the state agency doesn't approve a city's final blueprint, the municipality could lose control over development decisions along its swath of shoreline.

Advocates are pushing for cities to embrace managed retreat in these blueprints in large part to avoid attempts by residents to put in controversial seawalls. Armoring the coast with walls, boulders or piles of rocks often referred to as riprap can protect shoreline property and infrastructure, but the strategy will also drown beaches under rising tides.

Roughly a third of Southern California beaches are armored, according to the Coastal Commission. That number's about 10 percent for the state's entire 1,100-mile shoreline.

Advocates argue that as seas rise the practice unfairly deprives the public access to the coast.

"The world that we live in is changing and we have people who own property in places where the ocean is going to flood," said Jennifer Savage, California policy manager with the Surfrider Foundation. "There's an option to gracefully retreat instead of putting in a wall and sacrificing the beach."

While cities for the most part reserve the use of seawalls to protect large, expensive infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants, private property owners still fight vigorously, often in the courts, for the right to use such barriers.

"This is definitely going to be a growing issue of controversy and contention, but I don't think the Coastal Commission is in a place to say no more seawalls," said Rick Frank, director of the California Environmental Law and Policy Center at the University of California, Davis School of Law. "The commission is going to have focus on the issues with a lot more scrutiny coming up because they're so site specific."

Advocates hope that if cities embrace a policy of managed retreat it could sidestep legal battles over seawalls. However, it doesn't appear that most homeowners along the coast are going to embrace such a strategy without a fight.

Dead whale ingested 64 pounds of plastic and waste

By Joe Dziemianowicz
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

A young sperm whale that washed ashore in Spain had 64 pounds of waste and plastic inside its stomach.

Scientists said that the garbage—mostly plastic, plus pieces of ropes and nets and other junk—found lodged in the 33-foot-long mammal's belly and intestines led to its demise.

Peritonitis, an abdominal infection, is the official cause of death of the whale found on Feb. 27 on the beach of Cabo de Palos, CNN reports. The digestive system, plugged with garbage, ruptured.

TNS
On March 8, 2016, high tide caused coastal flooding. At La Jolla Shores, the waves slammed into houses at the north end of the boardwalk and poured over the seawall.

The discovery spurred authorities in Murcia, a university city in southeastern Spain, to launch a beach clean-up campaign.

"The presence of plastic in the ocean and oceans is one of the greatest threats to the conservation of wildlife throughout the world, as many animals are trapped in the trash or ingest large quantities of plastics that end up causing their death," Murcia's general director of environment, Consuelo Rosauro said in a statement.

This area isn't alone. The current best estimate is that 150 million tons of plastic currently circulate in marine environments, according to the Ocean Conservancy. Another 8 million tons of plastics enter the oceans each year.

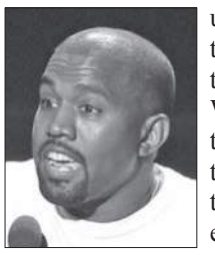
Life & Style

West's wild words stir again: Kanye calls slavery a 'choice'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before the last one had a chance to simmer down, Kanye West caused another stir, calling American slavery a "choice" in an interview Tuesday.

"When you hear about slavery for 400 years, for 400 years, that sounds like choice," West said on "TMZ Live" after questions on his pro-President Donald Trump posts and pictures that caused a dust-up last week. "You was there for 400 years, and it's all of y'all?"

"Do you feel like I'm thinking free and feeling free?" West asked the TMZ employees in the room.


West

"I actually don't think you're thinking anything," TMZ's Van Lathan quickly cracked back at West, as many would in the ensuing hours.

Lathan said while West gets to live the elite artist's life, "the rest of us in society have to deal with these threats in our lives. We have to deal with the marginalization that has come from the 400 years of slavery that you said for our people was our choice."

Symone D. Sanders, political commentator and CNN contributor, led the anti-West chorus on Twitter.

"Kanye is a dangerous caricature of a 'free-thinking' black person in America," Sanders tweeted. "Frankly, I am disgusted and I'm over it. Also (I can't believe I have to say this): Slavery was far from a choice."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Will Ferrell, Molly Shannon team up to cover royal wedding

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Queen Elizabeth may not be pleased, but Will Ferrell and Molly Shannon are putting their own spin on the marriage of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. Ferrell and Shannon will cover the London wedding in character as Cord Hosenbeck and Tish Cattigan—broadcasters supposedly famous for reporting on Southern California's annual Rose Parade. In the Funny Or Die special airing on HBO, the pair will join Tim Meadows and other guests to cover the wedding procession and general festivities. Titled "The Royal Wedding Live with Cord and Tish!" the show airs live at 7:30 a.m. EDT May 19 and will repeat that evening. Ferrell and Shannon are producers for the satiric look at the nuptials of the British prince and American Markle, former star of the TV show "Suits."

Yale rescinds honorary degree it awarded Bill Cosby

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Yale is rescinding the honorary degree it awarded Bill Cosby, joining numerous other universities in revoking honors following the comedian's sexual assault conviction. Yale announced Tuesday that the university's board of trustees had voted to rescind the honorary degree it awarded Cosby in 2003. The school says it's committed to both "the elimination of sexual misconduct and the adherence to due process." Jurors in Pennsylvania convicted Cosby last Thursday of drugging and molesting a Temple University employee at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Even before the verdict, more than 20 colleges and universities across the U.S. had revoked honorary degrees from Cosby in light of the allegations against him. Others including Temple, Johns Hopkins University and Carnegie Mellon University revoked honors afterward.

Private equity firm is winning bidder for Weinstein Co.

NEW YORK (AP)—A private equity firm emerged Tuesday as the winning bidder for the Weinstein Co., the studio forced into bankruptcy by the sexual misconduct scandal that brought down Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. The Weinstein Co. announced in a statement that no other bidder made a better offer than Dallas-based Lantern Capital, which made a "stalking-horse" bid last month to pay $310 million in cash for the Weinstein Co.'s assets. The emergence of another qualified bidder would have triggered an auction leading to higher sale price. The sale is subject to approval by a Delaware bankruptcy court, which has set a sale hearing for next week. The sale faces numerous objections that must be resolved, some from actors including Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep and Brad Pitt, who claim they are owed profit participation from projects. The Weinstein Co. filed for bankruptcy in March, succumbing to a fate it had tried to avoid since the scandal that forced Harvey Weinstein's ouster as CEO in October. Some 80 women, including prominent actresses, have accused Harvey Weinstein of misconduct ranging from rape to harassment.

NOT-SO-AMUSING RIDE AP

In this Tuesday, May 1, 2018, photo, passengers are rescued from the stopped Flying Dinosaur rollercoaster at Universal Studios Japan amusement park in Osaka, western Japan. Sixty-four passengers were left hanging in the air for up to two hours after the rollercoaster made an emergency stop. The amusement park said the rollercoaster's two carriages stalled midway through the 1,100-meter (yard) ride, with riders suspended in a flying position about 30 meters (100 feet) above the ground.

Wife is annoyed that husband answers call of nature outside

DEAR ABBY: We moved to the country, but we're not really far out of town. My educated, urbane, professional husband who has always lived in the city, now bypasses our 2 1/2 bathrooms and relieves himself outdoors in a "king of all he surveys" pose.

We no longer have children living at home, and he refrains from doing it when we have company or there's any possibility of his being seen, but it still drives me crazy! Could I be jealous because I am female, or should I join him? Is it truly as unsanitary as it seems, and is my letter a "first"?

TEMPTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TEMPTED: "Public" urination is against the law in most communities because of sanitation—as well as indecent exposure—issues. That said, however, the practice is not as unusual as you may believe. If you want to try it, I can't stop you, but I do suggest you bring along some tissue and plan ahead for a place to dispose of it.

As to whether your letter is a first, the answer is no. The topic arose about 20 years ago when "The Whiz-zard's Wife" wrote me about her husband doing it after dark, and occasionally in the side yard during daylight hours. She wondered if it was a normal male ritual. I replied:

"This is not a subject that's often discussed, but I suspect the practice is not unusual. Dogs and cats urinate to mark their territory. Your husband may be doing it for the same reason. For pets, the problem can be resolved by neutering; however, I wouldn't recommend that for your husband. The Los Angeles Police Department informs me that it's 'not illegal as long as it is not in public view.'"

I then suggested she check with the police in her city to be sure there are no ordinances against it.

When people ask me what some of my favorite letters are, I tell them the correspondence generated by "The Whiz-zard's Wife's" letter ranks among them. A sample:

DEAR ABBY: Though a frequent reader (after my wife), I've only now found reason to write to you, in response to the lady who feared her husband's habit of urinating on their lawn was inappropriate. So it may be, but all men pee outdoors.

My best to you and continued good luck with your column.

CHARLTON HESTON, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.

DEAR CHARLTON: Thank you for the input. Your letter is but a drop in the bucket compared to the deluge that has flooded my office since I printed that letter.

DEAR ABBY: My husband did the same thing over my vigorous objections, always after dark. When we moved to our new home, we had a wooden fence built. I decided to teach him a lesson and do the same. He was shocked. He told me I had better not do it again. I told him as long he continued, I would do it too.

Abby, he hasn't done it since. Sometimes, when they won't listen, you have to SHOW 'em.

HAPPY WIFE, FORNEY, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I strongly disagree with your answer to "Whiz-zard's Wife." You said you suspect the practice is not unusual. My husband doesn't do it, my ex didn't (except when he was drunk) and I've never seen my neighbors do it. My husband says the guy is an exhibitionist. I say he's lazy and ignorant.

However, I once knew a psychiatrist who confessed to occasionally "watering" the rubber tree in his outer office in this manner. I can't imagine why he disclosed this to me, unless it was to coax me into sharing personal secrets.

ARIZONA ANNIE

DEAR ANNIE: I can't imagine why he did it, either. It would certainly discourage a patient from using the chair closest to the plant.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HEY, LOOK! I HIT SOMETHING!
DON'T BREAK IT! DIG CAREFULLY!
GOSH, WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IT IS?
DUST IT OFF SO WE CAN SEE.
IT'S SOME BIZARRE SKULL!
LOOK AT ITS MOUTH. MAYBE IT'S A PREHISTORIC ANTEATER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO YOU DREW A SNARKY DINOSAUR VERSION OF ME?
YEAH. SORRY.
NO, NO. DON'T BE SORRY. YOU INSPIRED ME.
I GIVE YOU THE "WHINEY-PANTS SISTER PONY."
WAAA!
I'M A PONY! THAT'S SO AWESOME!!
WELL, DANG.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

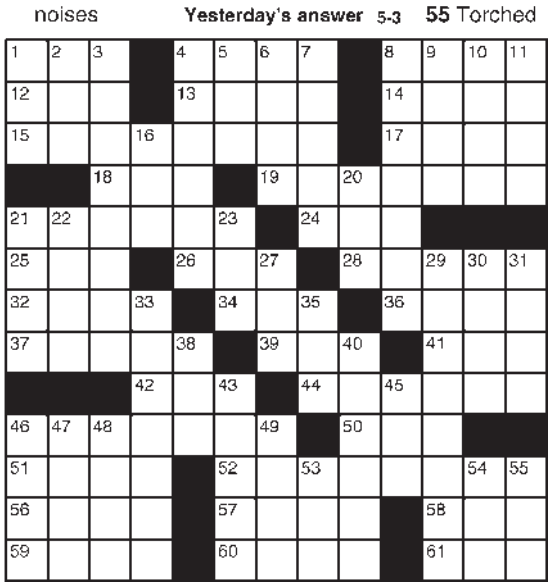
ACROSS
1 Aries
4 Hardy's "— the Obscure"
8 Too
12 Ms. Thurman
13 Milky gem
14 Pencil filler
15 Kuala Lumpur's land
17 Queue
18 Canine cry
19 Jogs sans togs
21 Arise
24 Heart chart (Abbr.)
25 Dhabi preceder
26 Young fellow
28 Emulate Lincoln
32 Decays
34 Morning moisture
36 Follow orders
37 Incubator noises
39 "Terrif!"
41 Formerly known as
42 — loss
44 Evil spirits
46 Little angels
50 Guffaw syllable
51 Caboose
52 Casual
56 Roughly
57 Two-way
58 Blackbird
59 Ship's staff
60 "Zounds!"
61 Allow

DOWN
1 Mojito ingredient
2 Docs' bloc
3 Sled dog breed
4 Happy
5 Boom times
6 Banquet platform
7 Gladden
8 Briskly, in music
9 "Star Wars" princess
10 Foundered
11 Praiseful pieces
16 Verb for you
20 "King Kong" studio
21 Kvetch
22 Reed instrument
23 Knee protector
27 Dict. info
29 Atypical
30 Adolescent
31 Seeing things
33 Small songbird
35 Bankroll
38 Trio after R
40 Observe
43 Tolerate
45 Scratch the surface
46 Gator's kin
47 Frau's mate
48 Lighten
49 Comfy-cozy
53 Air safety org.
54 Chemical suffix
55 Torched

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	B	S			E	V	E	L		T	A	S	K
S	C	A			M	I	R	E		E	R	I	C
P	A	N			P	A	G	E	A	N	T	R	Y
S	U	G	A	R			K	I	N				
			M	E	S	A		D	I	R	G	E
	A	P	E	S	T	R	Y		S	U	E	D	
A	T	A		S	O	R	O	S		S	A	G	
R	C	T	H		P	O	D	I	A	T	R	Y	
S	P	E	E	D		W	A	L	L				
			R	A	D			L	I	R	Y	A	
A	S	Y	M	M	E	T	R	Y		R	C	Y	
R	C	U	E		F	R	O	M		A	G	E	
A	L	M	S		I	I	U	E		D	A	S	

Yesterday's answer 5-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Hendricks, 43; Kristin Lehman, 46; Amy Ryan, 49; Frankie Valli, 84.

Happy Birthday: Have a plan. Sort through the past and configure the most suitable way to move forward. Learn all you can to prepare yourself for whatever comes your way. Discipline and determination are attributes that will not let you down when you are faced with a challenge. Prepare to go to battle until you feel safe and at ease with your position in life. Your numbers are 7, 10, 21, 27, 33, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Size up your personal, financial and physical situations. Bring about the changes that will encourage you to toss out bad habits and replace them with something that will offer you a brighter future. Express who you are and what you want. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Partnerships are highlighted. Whether personal or professional, the connections you have established should be cared for with compassion and understanding as well as with the intention of stabilizing future objectives. Maintain honesty and integrity no matter what happens. 3 stars

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Relationships will suffer if one or both parties are not honest about the way they feel. A heart-to-heart talk will be beneficial as well as encourage change that is long overdue. Be willing to listen and to compromise. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll be enticed by someone. Don't be too quick to get involved in something you know little about. What appears to be new and exciting will come with risks, creating stress and personal turmoil that will also affect your health and financial welfare. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Children will offer an interesting perspective on what's going on in your life. A change in position, status or reputation will be met with opposition. Think matters through carefully. Express your opinion, but be sure to listen to reason. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* With change comes anticipation. Look at the pros and cons before you make a decision that will change your life or your relationship with others. When in doubt, take a moment to rehash the negatives and positives of whatever scenario you face. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll desire change. Explore your options and be open to starting new relationships or new beginnings with someone from your past. A trip or learning experience will help you make an important decision regarding the changes you want to make. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider making a couple of changes regarding how you earn your living or handle your legal or financial affairs. Be proactive when dealing with health issues. Exhaust all your options before making a decision. False information is apparent. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* An opportunity must not be ignored. Consider what it will take to make a change, and do whatever is necessary to ensure you are free to take part. Follow your heart, not what someone else is demanding. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a step back and observe what others do and say. An emotional influence someone has on you will create problems that can cost you financially, legally or emotionally. Keep your facts straight and avoid unpredictable individuals. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A change is within reach. Apply for a position, revamp your resume or sign up for something that will help you promote and present what you have to offer. Love, romance and personal improvements are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An emotional situation will surface when dealing with a friend, relative or lover. Proceed with caution and question anything that appears suspicious. Don't make assumptions; gather facts and take action. Take better care of your physical and emotional health. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are reserved, secretive and analytical. You are studious and inquisitive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3		9			
		4		5		2		
7		2				9		6
6								7
	3			1			9	
8								4
5		3				8		9
		8		9		1		
			7		2			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	2	1	4	6	3	5	7
7	3	6	9	2	5	4	8	1
4	5	1	8	3	7	2	6	9
1	4	9	5	8	3	7	2	6
8	2	5	7	6	1	9	3	4
6	7	3	4	9	2	5	1	8
5	1	8	2	7	4	6	9	3
2	6	4	3	1	9	8	7	5
3	9	7	6	5	8	1	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HOURGLASSES Solution: 9 letters

E	T	A	R	I	P	A	S	S	I	N	G	A	L	F
E	C	I	V	E	D	A	S	H	R	I	N	K	S	F
R	Ⓟ	Ⓘ	Ⓛ	Ⓕ	B	L	U	B	R	I	S	A	U	U
H	D	E	S	I	G	N	A	S	N	E	I	T	N	N
T	U	B	O	G	G	L	E	V	T	L	U	I	S	I
S	A	F	R	A	N	C	E	E	A	R	F	S	S	C
S	I	B	R	N	D	R	G	I	E	F	A	E	E	O
E	R	Y	O	A	T	O	M	E	O	L	M	L	H	D
N	D	A	E	O	L	M	R	C	G	A	B	T	I	E
E	N	L	D	R	A	U	O	L	G	C	D	R	M	A
S	A	C	O	S	S	O	I	D	S	I	L	I	A	E
R	X	H	P	A	K	Z	R	P	W	O	C	C	R	M
A	E	E	E	E	A	A	I	N	E	C	K	K	I	I
O	L	M	R	R	O	H	N	O	D	N	O	L	N	T
C	A	Y	B	B	S	I	T	Z	S	I	Z	E	E	K

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Alchemy, Alexandria, Alias, Australia, Board Games, Boggle, Brazil, Bulb, Clepsammia, Coarseness, Coffin, Cookery, Design, Device, Flag, Flip, France, Future, Glass, Horloge, Hungary, Invert, Lead, London, Marble, Marine, Measure, Neck, Passing, Peleus, Pirate, Reused, Ships, Shrink, Size, Taboo, Three, Time, Trickle, Unicode, Width, Ybbsitz

Yesterday's Answer: Lines

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 26-0252 NOTICE OF HEARING Date: May 17, 2019 Time: 9:00 am Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO ANNIE R. TOKOYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIAN: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Administratrix Daisy Ramirez has filed a Request for Evidentiary Hearing to Determine Title. The Hearing on the Motion is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons or entitles should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2018 .

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, F-0135
Attorney-at-Law
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
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Saipan, MP 96950

(670) 323-2115

ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiff
timothy@bellaslawfirm.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

RYU, YONG-HO, AKA YOO, YONG-HO, Plaintiff, vs. CHUNG DAE SUK, Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 18-0073 **NOTICE TO APPEAR OR PLEAD**

Based on an *Ex Parte* Motion for an Order to Appear or Plead pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301, by Plaintiff, RYU, YONG-HO, by and through his counsel, Timothy H. Bellas, Notice is hereby given to Defendant, CHUNG DAE SUK, that if you wish to defend against this action which has been filed against you, you must appear or plead, within Thirty (30) days from the date that this Notice last appears in this newspaper. Your failure to appear or plead within this time period will result in the entry of Judgement for the Plaintiff, granting the relief demanded by the Plaintiff in his Verified Complaint.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2018.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Superior Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
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Attorney for Petitioner Antonio R. Rasiang

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SYLVESTRE F. ROGOLIFOI, Deceased.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0121** **NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS** **Date: May 24, 2018 Time: 9:00 a.m. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho**

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE SYLVESTRE F. ROGOLIFOI OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Antonio R. Rasiang has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration and to appoint an Administrator for the Estate of Sylvestre F. Rogolifoi, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard at the date and time above set forth at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein above indicated.

Dated this ____ day of April, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

ELIZABETH C. MANALANG
P.O. BOX 7862 SVRB SAIPAN, MP 96950
670-235-2384 / 989-5217

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ELIZABETH C. MANALANG Petitioner, vs. THOMAS C. ETRATA Respondent,	FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0136 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 7862 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: Every dog has his day

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Real Madrid reaches Champions League finals

AP
Real Madrid's goalkeeper Keylor Navas, right, deflects a ball during the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Real Madrid and FC Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

MADRID (AP)—Last time, it was a late penalty. This time, a goalkeeping blunder.

Real Madrid keeps finding ways to get out of trouble in the Champions League.

Madrid conceded early again at home and barely held on for a draw 2-2 against Bayern in Tuesday's semifinal match, advancing 4-3 on aggregate to stay on track for a third consecutive European title. But with Cristiano Ronaldo held scoreless for the second time in as many games, Madrid needed a blunder from Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich to gift them their second— and crucial—goal on the night.

"It's a Champions League semifinal. You will always suffer," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "Nothing is easy. Football is like that, you have to suffer. And when you win, it feels even better, although it's not too good for your heart."

Joshua Kimmich scored for Bayern in the third minute to set the stage for another comeback at the Santiago Bernabeu, like the one Juventus nearly pulled off in the quarterfinals before Ronaldo converted an injury-time penalty.

But the hosts reacted quicker this time, with Karim Benzema equalizing early in the first half and scoring again just after halftime after an embarrassing mistake by Ulreich when he allowed a back pass into the area to go underneath him.

Bayern went within a goal of eliminating the European champions when former Madrid player James Rodriguez scored in the 63rd, and it pressured the hosts until the end, but it was not enough to avoid a third straight elimination against the Spanish club.

"We were the best team in both games but we were not able to reach the final," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said. "We dominated. They should thank (goalkeeper Keylor) Navas for his performance, especially toward the end of the match."

The German club, which has now been knocked out in the Champions League semifinals in four of the last five seasons, had several good chances in the final minutes but was unable to capitalize.

By successfully defending its 2-1 win from last week, Madrid stayed on track for a third consecutive European title, and fourth in five seasons.

Europe's most successful club with 12 trophies, Madrid will play the final against either Liverpool or Roma, which were playing Wednesday in Italy. Liverpool won the first leg 5-2 at home.

"It was a crazy match," Zidane said. "We struggled in the beginning, conceding early and not being able to play our game. But it was a lot better in the second half. We pressed up front and got the second goal."

Bayern started well and easily created scoring chances, while Madrid tried to control possession but only threatened on counterattacks with the speed of Ronaldo and Marco Asensio up front.

Kimmich netted from inside the area after Madrid captain Sergio Ramos failed to clear a ball crossed into the area by Corentin Tolisso.

It was an eerily similar start to Madrid's match against Juventus, when it conceded in the second minute while trying to protect a 3-0 first-leg advantage. Madrid conceded twice more in that game but eventually advanced thanks to Ronaldo's injury-time penalty.

This time, Madrid reacted a lot more quickly, with Benzema equalizing in the 11th with a firm header after a well-placed cross from the left by Marcelo.

Slumping Harper homers in Nationals' win over Pirates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Slumping Bryce Harper was moved to the leadoff spot for the first time since 2013 and responded with a three-run homer that helped Max Scherzer win his fifth straight start as the Washington Nationals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 12-4 Wednesday night.

Harper entered in a 5-for-35 slump and had not gotten an extra-base hit since April 16. He grounded out in the first inning against Chad Kuhl (3-2), followed Wilmer Difo's go-ahead homer in the third with a flyout, then gave the Nationals a 5-0 lead in the fifth with his ninth homer this season.

Scherzer (6-1) allowed two runs and three hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out eight and walked one.

Yankees 4, Astros 0

In Houston, Gary Sanchez hit a three-run homer in the ninth off Ken Giles (0-1), who punched himself on the face and chin when he walked to the dugout after he was knocked out later in the inning, then threw a bat in the dugout and kicked it. New York won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Rockies 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Charlie Blackmon and David Dahl opened the game with consecutive homers off Kyle Hendricks (2-2), and Nolan Arenado also homered as Colorado stopped a three-game slide.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon put Anthony Rizzo in the leadoff spot to try to help the big first baseman out of his slump, and he opened with his fourth career leadoff homer.

Rangers 8, Indians 6

In Cleveland, Joey Gallo and Isiah Kiner-Falefa homered on consecutive pitches off Nick Goody (0-2) in the 12th inning.

Alex Claudio (1-1) allowed two hits in three scoreless innings.

Braves 3, Mets 2

In New York, Mike Soroka (1-0) gave up one run and six hits in six innings as the 20-year-old right-hander won his big league debut Soroka joined Ronald Acuna Jr., who is about four months younger, and the 21-year-old Ozzie Albies to give Atlanta the three youngest players in the majors.

Brewers 7, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Ryan Braun hit a tiebreaking double off Homer Bailey (0-4) for a 5-3 lead in the fifth and Travis Shaw ended his 0-for-19 slide with a two-run homer. The Reds fell to 7-23, matching the 1931 and 1934 teams for worst 30-game start in franchise history.

Marlins 2, Phillies 1

In Miami, Pinch-hitter Yadiel Rivera improved his .100 batting average with a one-out RBI single in the 10th that followed Cameron Maybin's triple against Yacksel Rios (3-1). Miami won its fourth straight and Philadelphia lost its fourth in a row.

Tigers 2, Rays 1

In Detroit, Matthew Boyd (1-2) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings. Shane Greene, who allowed a pair of ninth-inning homers in a loss to Tampa Bay on Monday, worked a perfect ninth a night later for his fifth save.

Royals 7, Red Sox 6

In Boston, Alex Gordon hit a tying home run off Craig Kimbrel in the ninth inning, and Jorge Soler hit a three-run homer against Brian Johnson (1-1) in the 13th.

Cardinals 3, White Sox 2

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter tied the score against Joakim Soria (0-1) when he led off the ninth with his 100th home run, and Yadier Molina hit a game-ending single as St. Louis stopped a three-game losing streak.

Bud Norris (1-0) picked up his first win of the season with a perfect ninth.

Blue Jays 7, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Kendrys Morales homered twice for Toronto and reached base all five times he batted, including an intentional walk in the 10th inning when the Blue Jays scored twice on wild pitches by John Curtiss.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

In Phoenix, Daniel Descalso atoned for a costly error with a two-run, go-ahead triple in the seventh inning and Arizona rallied to beat Los Angeles, handing the Dodgers their fourth straight loss and seventh in eight games.

Angels 3, Orioles 2

In Anaheim, Justin Upton hit a walk-off single with the bases loaded, and Los Angeles blew a two-run lead in the ninth inning before snapping a four-game skid with a victory over Baltimore.

Padres 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Eric Hosmer homered off Giants closer Hunter Strickland with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting San Diego over San Francisco.

Hosmer also tripled earlier and scored.

Mariners 6, Athletics 3

In Seattle, Nelson Cruz hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning, Dee Gordon had five hits, and Felix Hernandez pitched six solid innings to send Seattle over Oakland.

Draft a big draw, but not a record-setter

NEW YORK (AP)—With someone walking onstage every few minutes to read a name off a piece of paper, the NFL draft wouldn't seem like a big television draw. Yet the 11.2 million people who watched this year made it the week's second most popular program.

The first round of the draft was shown on Fox, the NFL Network and several ESPN networks simultaneously. This year's assignment of college football players to NFL teams was particularly suspenseful, with a handful of quality quarterbacks waiting to be drafted, and little consensus ahead of time over how things were going to go.

Still, it wasn't quite as popular as the most-watched draft ever. That came in 2014 when another quarterback, in this case Johnny Manziel, was selected first by the Cleveland Browns. That draft reached 12.4 million people on Thursday, the Nielsen company said.

Coverage of the third day of the draft, when the players really start getting obscure, reached nearly 3 million and was the most ever, Nielsen said.

With ABC's "Roseanne" in repeats, CBS' "The Big Bang Theory" returned to the top of the ratings, reaching 11.8 million people.

CBS won the week in prime time, averaging 6.4 million viewers. ABC had 4.5 million, NBC had 4.4 million, Fox had 2.7 million, Univision had 1.6 million, ION Television had 1.3 million, Telemundo had 1.2 million and the CW had 1.1 million.

TNT was the most popular cable network, averaging 2.74 million viewers in prime time. Fox News Channel had 2.35 million, ESPN had 1.86 million, MSNBC had 1.75 million and USA had 1.45 million.

ABC's "World News Tonight" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 8.3 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" was second with 7.7 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.9 million.

Curry returns to score 28, Warriors beat Pelicans

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Long before tipoff, Stephen Curry swished his routine tunnel shot on the second try. Once the game began, the two-time MVP stood along the bench anxiously waiting for his turn, shaking his legs and clapping his hands with nervous energy and anticipation.

Then—mouthpiece dangling, of course—Curry finally entered at the 4:20 mark of the first quarter to a roaring ovation from the Oracle Arena crowd and immediately got to work. He knocked down a 3-pointer from the left wing 11 seconds later and was off and running in Golden State's 121-116 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday night.

"The ball swung to him and he just launched. It didn't surprise me. That's who he is," coach Steve Kerr said. "That was a fun moment."

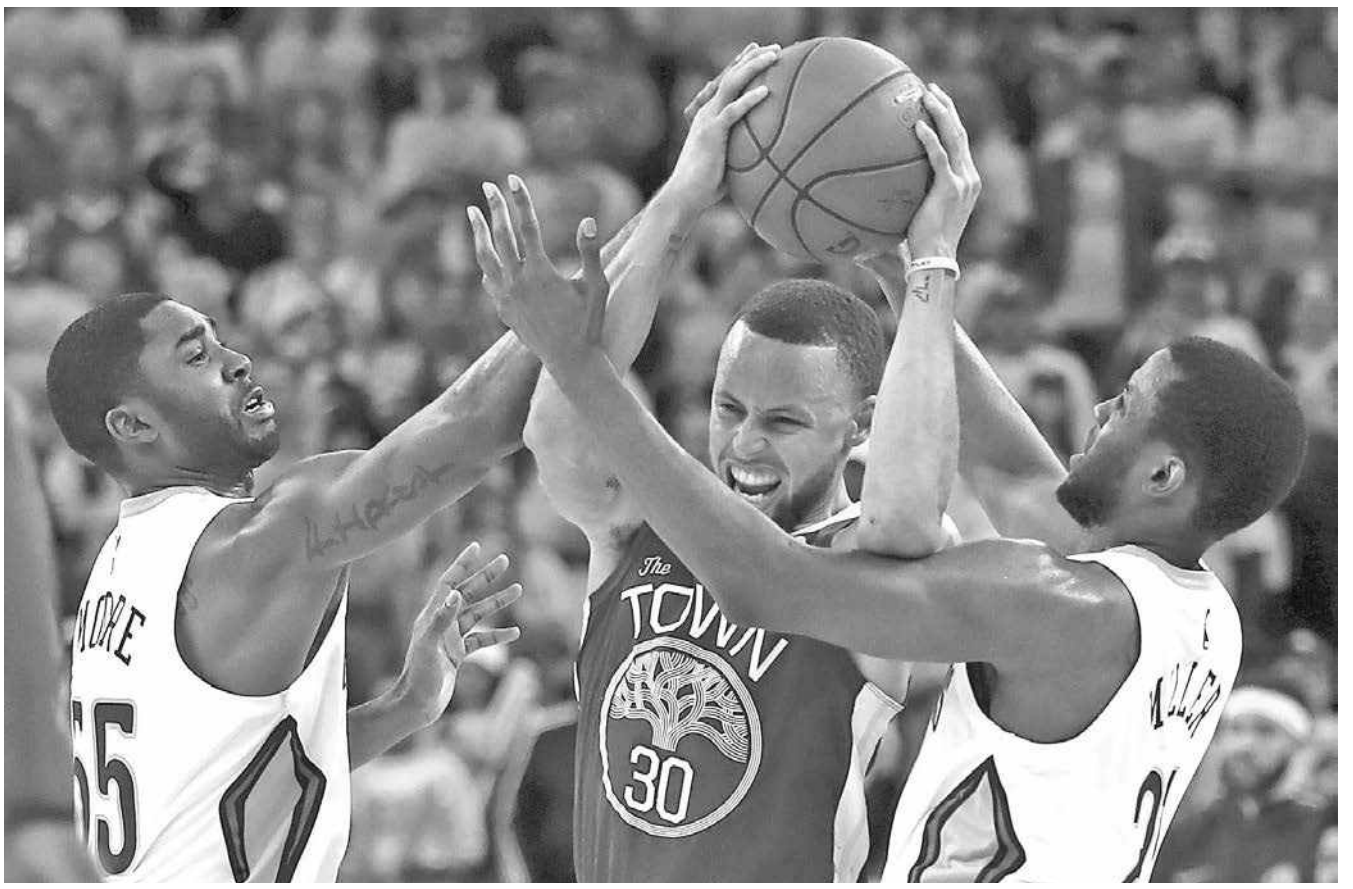
Curry came off the bench to score 28 points in a triumphant return from a knee injury and nearly six weeks off, and the Warriors held off Anthony Davis and the pesky Pelicans to go ahead 2-0 in the Western Conference semifinals.

All is right with the Warriors again now that No. 30 is back on the floor—even as a backup.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points with a huge 3-pointer with 3:10 to play, to go with seven assists and six rebounds in Golden State's franchise-record 14th consecutive postseason victory at Oracle Arena. Draymond Green contributed 20 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds while battling Davis on both ends all night.

Davis finished with 25 points and 15 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday had 24 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Pelicans, who also got 22 points and 12 assists from Rajon Rondo.

Andre Iguodala converted a snazzy three-point play with 6:41 left when he flipped the ball up and it came back down and through the net as he was fouled by Rondo, then Golden State pulled away.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) keeps the ball from New Orleans Pelicans' E'Twaun Moore, left, and Darius Miller during the second half in Game 2 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Tuesday, May 1, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

The best-of-seven series resumes with Game 3 on Friday at New Orleans.

Curry shot 8 for 15 with five 3-pointers and grabbed seven rebounds in 27 minutes. He let it fly for a 30-foot 3 in the closing minute of the third.

"He's going to score," New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry said.

The Warriors were focused on keeping their edge after a blowout Game 1 win.

Just the energy Curry brings helped that cause.

The whole place came alive when he made his first appearance on the floor.

"That was a special moment when Steph checked into the game," Kerr said.

Curry had been sidelined since spraining his left knee March 23, the same day he came back from a six-game absence with a right ankle injury.

He already had a history of brilliant returns from injuries.

Cavaliers 113, Raptors 112, OT

In Toronto, this time, LeBron James didn't have to do it all by himself.

James had 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds for his 21st career playoff triple-double, J.R. Smith scored 20 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Toronto Raptors 113-112 in overtime on Tuesday night to win Game 1 of their second-round playoff series.

Kyle Korver scored 19 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer in overtime after Cleveland never led in regulation. Tristan Thompson had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who have eliminated Toronto in each of the past two postseasons.

"My teammates were unbelievable tonight," James said. "They stepped up when I wasn't at my best."

Jeff Green scored 16 points and Kevin Love had 13 rebounds.

James, who topped 40 points three times in seven games against Indiana in round one, shot 12 for 30 against Toronto, going 1 for 8 from 3-point range, and called it "probably one of my worst games of the season."

Still, James came through when it counted, tying the score with two baskets in the final 92 seconds of regulation to complete Cleveland's comeback from a double-digit deficit.

"It got to a one-possession, two-possession game," James said. "That's what I like the most."

Toronto's Fred VanVleet missed a 3-pointer with 3.4 seconds to go in overtime that could have won it for the Raptors, who couldn't hold on after taking a 10-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

"He got a heck of a shot," Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan said. "I'll live with him shooting that shot 10 times out of 10. We got a good look and it just didn't fall."

Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 21 rebounds, Kyle Lowry had 18 points and 10 assists, and DeRozan scored 22 points for the Raptors, who host Game 2 on Thursday night.

The Cavaliers beat the Raptors in six games in the Eastern Conference finals in 2016 before going on to win their first NBA championship. Last year, Cleveland swept Toronto in the second round.

Jazz try to slow Harden down in Game 2

HOUSTON (AP)—No one on the Utah Jazz is using the word "stop" when referring to what they'll try to do to James Harden in Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals on Wednesday night after the Houston Rockets' star scored 41 points in a Game 1 rout.

They're simply searching for ways to slow him down a bit after he's averaged almost 36 points a game in five meetings this season.

"He is a (heck) of a player so it's going to be tough, but we feel like we can just try to make it a bit tough on him for the whole (time) he's out there," Utah's Joe Ingles said.

Harden made seven 3-pointers in Game 1, leaving the Jazz focused on limiting him from long range.

"Just make him a driver," rookie Donovan Mitchell said. "He loves getting back to that 3. They got comfortable in the first half and they went up 30. So just being able to make them uncomfortable and not let them dictate what we do on defense. Make sure we dictate what they do."

Coach Mike D'Antoni isn't concerned about anything that the Jazz might throw at Harden on Wednesday and believes the only thing that can keep Harden from a big game is, well, Harden.

"There's no answer. He's seen it all," D'Antoni said. "Now, he might play bad and that's because he's human. But there's nothing that you can conceivably come up with that can stop one of the best offensive players ever."

Harden led the NBA in scoring in the regular season by averaging a career-high 30.4 points a game and ranks second behind LeBron James this postseason with 31 points a game.

Houston's Trevor Ariza, a player known for his defense, has the task of guarding Mitchell in this series. He was asked what he would try if he had to guard Harden. There was a long pause before Ariza let out a loud sigh and said with a laugh: "I'd figure out a way to slow him down."

But the veteran is happy to be playing with Harden and not against him.

"I'm glad I don't have that problem right now," he said. "I wouldn't tell them what I think. I would let them try to figure it out on their own."

George admits playing in California would be 'attractive'

OKLAHOMA CITY—With the exception of LeBron James, Paul George will arguably be the most high-profile free agent in the NBA this summer.

Along with LeBron, the five-time All Star is one of the Los Angeles Lakers' main targets and has been repeatedly linked with a move to his home state.

The 27-year-old will be an unrestricted free agent in July and has hinted he would like to re-sign with the Oklahoma City Thunder, but after Oklahoma crashed out of the playoffs in the first round he might explore his options in the market.

However, George has also admitted he would relish the prospect of playing in California but insisted that will not be the only factor weighing on his decision.

"I would say almost everybody in this league would love to play at home," he said, as reported by The Oklahoman's YouTube channel.

"I won't say that's a lie. Everybody would love to play for their home in one way or the other. But that's not the only option for why I want to go somewhere is because it's home. Not at all."

After seven seasons with the Indiana Pacers, George was traded to Oklahoma City last summer in exchange for Victor Oladipo and Domantas Sabonis. However, while the prospect of playing alongside Russell Westbrook and Carmelo Anthony sounded appealing, things never quite worked out for the trio and the Thunder were upset by the Utah Jazz in the playoffs, losing the series 4-2.

Oklahoma is desperate to keep George, who averaged 21.9 points shooting 43 percent from the field, 5.7 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game in 36.6 minutes this season, but to do so it will in all likelihood have to offer him a deal worth approximately $180 million over the next five years.

For his part, the Southern California native has indicated he would like to continue playing alongside Westbrook next season, suggesting over the weekend that the Thunder "checked all the boxes" and hinting he was not planning to move again.

"I haven't been in the position to be in a free agent or know what it's like to have the chance to go where you want to go," he added.

"That's always been I feel players, they want that option. Then you get into an organization where they kind of check all the boxes of what you want out of an organization, and immediately they become a candidate where you want to play long-term. That's been the case here. They honestly checked the boxes where I needed those boxes to be checked."

That might not be what the Lakers wanted to hear but with success far from guaranteed in Oklahoma, expect Magic Johnson and the Lakers to leave no stone unturned this summer in a bid to bring George back to California.

Commotion heats up action in 'Beatdown'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Six of the 10 undercard mixed martial arts bouts in last Friday's Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown ended quickly in the first round, while the other four needed two to determine the winners.

Jessme Jones earned a quick 33-second technical knockout win over Maegan Smith, while Red Ants Academy's Sichiru Langu was forced to tap out on Ken Evans' rear-naked-choke just 2:20 into the match. High Blood Pressure Guam's Junar Jesus defeated Team Tinian's Corey San Nicolas by RNC, 1:15 into the match, while Steel Athletics' Angel Oliveras needed only 2:58 in completing a TKO victory over Luta Top Team's John Mendiola.

LTT's L.D. Ogo earned his first MMA win when he forced Team Tinian's Napu "Fong Fung" Reyes to tap out via RNC with 1:47 gone bye in the first round, while visiting South Korean Seung Jun Lee of Korean Top Team defeated Zalaka's Fradley Jepen via TKO at the 4:36 mark of the first round in their 215-lb bout.

Though several fights ended early, the 23rd installment of the amateur showdown at the Marianas Business Plaza was still action-packed and so intense that commotion erupted after a duel between a Tinian fighter and Saipan bet.

It happened after referee Mike Ulloa chose to stop the fight between Saipan's Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho and Team Tinian's Austin John King with the former earning the win at the 2:54 mark of the second round.

The decision did not sit well with Team Tinian's corner, while some of their supporters even charged to their side, in clear protest against Ulloa's somewhat controversial call. Event bouncers were called in to pacify some members of the Tinian crowd.

Before that incident, King was down and trying to cover his face against the barrage of punches from Camacho. Some spectators also said that

Camacho allegedly kicked King, while the latter was down. Ulloa could have seen that King was no longer engaging and for the fighter's safety, the official chose to jump in and stop the fight.

Fight promoter Cuki Alvarez addressed the crowd a few minutes later, apologizing for what happened and reiterated the importance of each fighter's safety in friendly, but competitive mixed martial arts matches.

CNMI

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nation turnover ceremony.

McDonald's handed over the $3,000 check to NMA officials for the McDonald's/Public School System All Schools Athletics Championships that will be held from May 9 to 12 at the Oleai Sports Complex. NMA officials are still finalizing the list of students that qualified in the meet after the almost month-long trials.

"This is our way of giving back to the community that has also supported us through the years. Most of the kids that join are also our customers. So we want to continue supporting the community that has supported us, too," Ayuyu said.

He added that the All Schools has helped the local athletics federation with their recruitment program, as a number of local track stars started their career in the annual event.

"The athletics championships give the kids the opportunity to test their skills against the CNMI's best young athletes. It is where the CNMI's future track stars are discovered. It has become a training ground for young athletes, to take their skills to the next level."

Jacque Wonenberg, Dexter Dillay, Darrel Roligat, Tyrone Omar, the Bennett sisters—Yvonne and Yvette—Jeremy Winkfield, Reylynn Sapong and younger sister Zarinae, Lia Rangamar, Jenequa Sullivan Benavente, Rachel Abrams, and Beouch Ngirchongor are some of the athletes that the All Schools produced. Even Jericho Cruz, now a basketball star in the Philippine Basketball Association, competed in the long jump in the All Schools.

They have won medals in regional events like the Micronesian Games and Micronesian Area Championships, now known as the Oceania Micronesia Regional Championships, and competed in the Pacific Games and world championships organized by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Yvonne Bennett holds the 400m run record in the Micronesia regionals with a time of 1:02.91, she set in August 2009 in Gold Coast, Australia, while Wonenberg duplicated the feat with a 4.66m distance in long jump in the same tournament. Yvonne also holds the CNMI national records in the 100m dash (12.37 seconds), 200m run (24.82 seconds), and 400m run (56.24 seconds), while Wonenberg in the 100m hurdles (16.4 seconds), long jump (4.97m) and triple jump (10.10m). Both athletes also set records in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Koror, Palau with Bennett accomplishing the feat in the 100m dash (12.68 seconds), 200m run (26.41 seconds), and 400m run (1:01.30). Wonenberg owns the Micro Games' mark in the 400m hurdles (1:03.68) and women's pentathlon—60m hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump, and 800m run—with 2,380 points.

Omar holds the CNMI records in 100m sprint (10.99 seconds) and 200m run (22.4 seconds); Ngirchongor in the 400m run (52.74); Dillay in 110m hurdles (16.8 seconds) and long jump (6.42m); Abrams in high jump (1.38m); Benavente in hammer throw (27.57m); and Rangamar in javelin throw (35.31m).

KONQER

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outdoors which is just the ultimate playground and Rota fits that category. I think highlighting a lot of the culture and a lot of the landscape of Rota is important," she said

"We don't want to go over there and tarnish what is so pristine and beautiful… Our whole mantra is obstacle through play because what is an obstacle course but a big playground for adults really. We just want people to get out, be active, and enjoy themselves at the same time," she added.

Endo added KONQER documents the whole process of using your body to the fullest and enjoying the environment that you are in.

"KONQER is about documenting the process because nowadays if you don't film it, it never happened. By filming it, it's out on the internet, more people get to experience it, and hopefully more people come through it… Rota is a beautiful place and it needs to be seen more," he said.

"We don't control the transportation, we don't control the politics, but what we can control is the presentation of the experience. It's opening up Rota where you can't just play golf, explore nature, and go on a trail run that's really fantastic!" Endo added

Endo said that after Saipan and Rota, Tinian is also on the list of places for KONQER to conquer, as Tinian came up when the team got invited to do something there and see the possibility of organizing an obstacle race.

"What I really love to do is to make it a CNMI competition, allotting three days such as one day on Saipan, one day on Tinian, and then Rota because at the end of the day, KONQER is not about trophies and winning. It's really about just doing it, getting through and feeling accomplished because if you can accomplish a lot of things you normally wouldn't do, then everything else becomes easy. We want people to take risks and say if you can do this basic thing… then there's nothing that you cannot conquer," he added.

FALCONS

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Chris Gonzales and Noah Aguon alternated on the mound, while Joey Sharry had an inside-the-park homer in the Falcons' shutout win.

Gonzales tossed three innings, giving up an infield hit to J.J. Reyes and a double to Joel Deleon Guerrero, while fanning five and walking none.

Aguon had a shaky start at the top of the fourth after Dillon Santos got on base on an error by first baseman Andre Iguel and then he allowed a single to Max Church. He struck out Casey Chambers, but hit Lance Acosta by pitch to load up the bases. Aguon, however, settled in after that and retired Reyes and Dane Hodges to begin the Falcons' celebration.

Sharry belted his two-RBI homer against Santos at the bottom of the second with one out. He towed Deandre Sablan with him, after the latter had a two-RBI triple earlier to get on base. Michael Tomokane then had a bases-clearing three-RBI double at the bottom of the third before going out after he tried to stretch it to third.

Santos tossed 2.3 innings for McDonald's, allowing eight walks, striking out three, and giving up five earned runs on four hits. Deleon Guerrero pitched the rest of the third inning, yielding a double to Tomokane with three earned runs, a strikeout, and two walks.

Meanwhile, G-Boy Pangelinan, who was second both in the batting and pitching leaders, tossed and hit his way against the Bridge Capital Pirates.

He went 3-for-4 with two runs, two doubles, and an RBI, while holding the Pirates to two hits—singles to Charley McDonald and Noah Iguel—with one earned run, seven strikeouts, and four walks.

Gunner Sablan had two RBI singles with one run on a 2-for-4 batting for the Little Legals.

MINOR LEAGUE
Marlins 4, Cubs 3

Nick Sablan won his pitching duel against Rosie Saralu in the Kagman Marlins' close win over the Chalan Kanoa Cubs.

Sablan tossed four innings of one-hit game with the Cubs' three runs all unearned. He also retired 10 and walked four batters.

Kevin Shardt and Paul Lizama scored on back-to-back errors by the Marlins in the first inning, while the former reached home plate for the second time on a passed ball.

Saralu also pitched a one-hitter with one earned run, seven strikeouts, and four walks.

TANHOLDINGS

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games at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

KFAS scored all its goals in the first half with Juan Oh registering three and Hwapyoung and Edwin Kim adding one each. Feng Yu had a brace, while Jack Phan and Brian Lubao chipped in one apiece, as Sun Palace drilled all their goals in the second half and fell short of overhauling the deficit.

With its clean 8-0-0 mark, KFAS is likely to top the six-team division and gain an automatic semis berth. The Top 2 teams will receive the outright semis tickets, while the bottom four will battle for the last two slots. Matansa has an inside track for the second semis berth, as it is currently ranked second with its 5-1-2 mark and followed by Sun Palace (3-1-4), CNMI Women's National Team (3-1-4), Shirley's FC (3-0-5), and Pacific Islands Club (0-1-7).

Matansa 12, PIC 0

Matansa kept the No. 2 spot in the standings after crushing Pacific Islands Club.

Amzad Khan led Matansa's demolition of PIC after recording four goals. Rommel Mendoza and Daniel Jay Duenas had three each and Jacob Montes-Sabino and Travis Camacho contributed one apiece.

Shirley's 5, U16 WNT 1

Shirley's bagged its third win after outclassing the U16 WNT in the final game in the division last weekend.

Jun Liu made a brace for Shirley's, while Heng Guo Piao, Yooha Cho, and Jedidah Peteru added one each. the U16 WNT avoided a shutout loss, thanks to Katrina Costales' goal in the 78th minute.

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Kim made a putback with a little over three minutes left in the game to break the nth standoff in the closely fought match, 40-38. He then anticipated a cross pass from L.J. Reyes to Greg Deleon Guerrero and converted a fastbreak layup to give the 670 Sonics more breathing room, 42-28, down to the last 2:15 in the game.

A Deleon Guerrero drive moved Bruce Almighty within a deuce, but Bryan Bernardo countered with an incomplete 3-point play to bring the 670 Sonics' lead back to 4. However, Bruce Almighty refused to give up and threatened the 670 Sonics anew when Keon Kabiriel knocked in a jumper. Bruce Almighty then had a chance to either take the lead with a triple or tie the match, but missed a couple of shots and also committed turnovers in the ensuing plays, while a second putback from Kim handed the 670 Sonics another 4-point cushion, with 43 seconds left on the clock.

Bruce Almighty faltered again on its offensive set, while the 670 Sonics also muffed its shot on the other end, but fortunately the ball hit one of the former's player before going out to the baseline, giving the possession back to the latter.

Bruce Almighty sued for time with 24 second remaining in the game and was expected to give up a quick foul if it could not steal the ball off the inbound. However, the ploy did not materialize, as the 670 Sonics caught Bruce Almighty's defense napping when John Caruano made the inbound from the baseline and spotted a cutting Stephen Bartolo for the easy two that upped their lead to 6.

A missed triple from Bruce Almighty sealed the doom for the team, while the 670 Sonics got the rebound and melted down the clock.

Meanwhile, in the second game, Allan Morilla drilled 10 of his 14 points in the second half to lift the RT Law NMI Rollers to the semis win. Ervin Villarin also finished in twin digits for the second finalist after adding 11 markers.

First Game

670 Sonics 48 — Rizo 10, Kim 10, Bartolo 7, Francisco 6, Galang 4, Puri 4, Bernardo 4, Aldan 3.

Bruce Almighty 42 — Deleon Guerrero 15, Reyes 6, Kabiriel 6, Menchor 4, Padayao 3, Kapwich 3, Saures 2.

Scoring by halves: 28-28, 48-42.

Second Game

RT Law NMI Rollers 49 — Morilla 14, Villarin 11, Manglona 7, Cruz 6, Pangelinan 4, Tudela 4.

Saipan Vegas 42 — Ichihara 9, Lassaro 8, Deleon Guerrero 8, King 6, Francisco 4, Soriano 3, They 2, **Laniyo 2.**

TanHoldings, MPU keep unbeaten marks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club and TanHoldings FC posted similar wins to remain unbeaten in Division A of the 2018 Spring M-League.

MP United played in the curtain-raiser at the Hopwood Middle School Field last Sunday and shut down Paire, 4-0, for a perfect 7-0-0 win-draw-loss record. TanHoldings, on the other hand, improved to a 6-1-0 after blanking Okadaya in the second game, 3-0.

TanHoldings and MP United are battling for the No. 1 spot in the seven-team Division A with two playing weekends left in the regular season. The top finisher after the preliminary matches will draw a bye in the first round of the playoffs, while the No. 2 will face the last placer in a make-or-break game. Other pairings in the playoffs are No. 3 vs 6 and No. 4 vs 5. The Teen Ayuyus (2-3-3), are ranked third after last weekend's matches and are followed by Paire (2-1-4), Okadaya (2-1-4), Winners & Pacific (0-2-4), and Kanoa FC (0-2-4).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Okadaya goalie Kosuke Kamura drops on the ground as he tries to deflect the ball kicked by TanHoldings Football Club's Martin Jambor during the first half of their Division A game in the 2018 Spring M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Anthony Fruit towed MP United to its seventh win in as many games after scoring a hat trick with his goals made in succession. He found the back of the net in the 12th, 23th, and 65th minute, while Sunjoon Tenorio closed out for MP United in the 87th.

In TanHoldings' similar shutout victory, three different players hit the board for the winning squad. Jershwin Angeles opened things up for TanHoldings with his goal in the 12th minute, while Mark Esalan scored two minutes later, and Martin Jambor handed their team its third goal in the 34th.

Meanwhile, the Teen Ayuyus moved up to third place in the team standings after slipping past Winners & Pacific, 3-2.

Taka Borja, Rintaro Miyawaki, and Elijah Villamero delivered the goals for the Teen Ayuyus with Borja making it to the board first with his shot in the 10th minute. Three minutes later Junsik Kim equalized, while his goal in the 30th handed Winners & Pacific a 2-1 lead at the break.

When the game resumed, the Teen Ayuyus forced the second deadlock in the match, thanks to Miyawaki's conversion in the 53rd minute, while Villamero recorded the go-ahead in the 68th.

DIVISION B
KFAS 5, Sun Palace 4

Korean Football Association on Saipan survived Sun Palace's second-half uprising to remain undefeated after eight

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KONQER Rota still on target

BY BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

After the success of last Saturday's KONQER Saipan and despite the announcement that Cape Air Express will stop its flights from Saipan to Rota and Guam to Rota next month, KONQER will push through with organizing an eco-adventure race on the island this summer.

The reason is personal, according to KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo, who reminisced about his memories of Rota.

"Rota and I have special roots. The first is being a young man playing golf at the Rota Resort Golf Course and looking around me, I fell in love with Rota right away. The second time was meeting a 'Make-A-Wish' girl named Miracle because I was documenting her story as a film maker. Miracle with her family and I went to Tokyo Disneyland and while on the conveyer belt to Disneyland from the parking lot where there were about 30,000 parked cars, she looked up and said 'I've never seen that many cars' which I answered with 'welcome to Tokyo'," he said.

"Although Miracle passed away, she lived six years longer than what she was expected because of her condition. Miracle and my first experience of going to an unspoiled and pristine place ties me to Rota and for us to be able to have an opportunity to bring KONQER eco-adventure race there will be unforgettable," added.

Early this month, the CNMI received news from United Airlines that flights from Saipan-Rota and Guam-Rota via Cape Air Express will no longer be available after May 31, giving KONQER Rota logistics and planning a bit of a hurdle to face.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, however, said that they are still interested in having KONQER in Rota despite of United Airlines' announcemement.

"We will see and work on driving traffic to Rota for KONQER as soon as we figure out the possible date, other logistical information and we will make an announcement then… Star Marianas still have service flights from Saipan to Rota… In the meantime, the plan is to still have KONQER Rota," he added.

KONQER president Kelli Wedd said Rota is a perfect place, calling it an ultimate playground.

"A lot of the excitement that we have for KONQER is for the man-made obstacles that really allow people to challenge themselves, but one of the best races that we've done are using the

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BEA CABRERA
From left, Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, KONQER chief experience officer Kas Endo, and KONQER president Kelli Wedd pose for a photo during the KONQER Saipan briefing held at Salty's Bar in Garapan last Friday.

Ol'Aces advance; Lady Ol'Aces vs Fiesta for last finals slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces eased their way to the finals of the women's division of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League, leaving the Lady Ol'Aces and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to battle for the last ticket to the championship round.

The Ol'Aces hammered the Docomo Rollers last Monday, 92-32, to move into the best-of-three title series that will start on Monday, while the Lady Ol-Aces and Fiesta fought for the last finals slot last night. Results of the second semis game in the division were unavailable at press time.

Micronesian Games-bound Eleina Santos powered the Ol'Aces to the lopsided win after firing 27 points. Alliyah Fernandez backed her up after adding 17, while Desrei Camacho as the third Ol'Aces player to score in twin digits with 12.

A.J. Garon had 12 to lead the Docomo Rollers, which bowed out of competition winless.

A 25-6 scoring surge in the first quarter set up the Ol'Aces' easy win, as the first finalists simply had too much offensive firepower against their struggling opponents.

Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces also won convincingly in the men's division, crushing the Chalan Kanoa Ballerz, 91-49.

Douglas Schmidt paced the Ol'Aces with his 17 points, while Freddie Pelisamen and N-Nes Siech chipped in 12 and 10, respectively. Six other Ol'Aces players registered at least 8 points each for the team's balance offense.

White Capalad and Eric Deleon Guerrero had 12 points apiece to top-score for the winless Ballerz, which logged only 4 points in the first quarter and never got its offensive game going.

Women's Game

Ol'Aces 92 — E. Santos 27, Fernandez 17, D. Camacho 12, S. Camacho 6, Pangelinan 5, An. Santos 4, Al. Santos 5, Simram 4.

Docomo Rollers 32 — Garon 13, Nowicki 7, Pena 4, Santos 4, Lumabi 2, Hemley 2.

Men's Game

Ol'Aces 91 — Schmidt 17, Pelisamen 12, Siech 10, Rabauliman 9, Barcinas 9, Blake 8, Basa 8, Santos 8, Lizama 8, Deleon Guerrero 4.

Ballerz 49 — Capalad 12, Deleon Guerrero 12, Pelisamen 6, Lieto 4, Kaipat 4, Taman 4, Augustine 4, Donovan 2.

JON PEREZ
The Lady Ol'Aces' Taz Deleon Guerrero, left, tries to barrel her way into the defense of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Quina Flores during their regular season game in the MIBF island-wide caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Lady Ol'Aces and Fiesta Resort fought for the last finals berth yesterday.

Real Madrid reaches Champions League finals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Curry returns to score 28, Warriors beat Pelicans

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670 Sonics vs NMI Rollers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics and RT Law NMI Rollers arranged their title showdown in the boys U15 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after prevailing in their respective semis games last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The No. 1 seed 670 Sonics avoided the upset axe of Bruce Almighty after playing steadier in the homestretch en route to a 48-42 win in the first semis match. In the second Final Four pairing, the RT Law NMI Rollers downed Saipan Vegas, 49-42, to earn the right to face the unbeaten 670 Sonics in tonight's winner-take-all finale.

Tony Kim and John Rizo had 10 points each to lead the 670 Sonics in scoring with the former delivering three clutch baskets to save his team from the persistent Bruce Almighty.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

670 Sonics and Bruce Almighty players fight for the rebound during the second half of their semis game in the boys U15 division of the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Falcons, Little Legals on track to finals collision

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons and the Kagman Little Legals are still on track for a finals faceoff in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball after dispatching their respective opponents last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons remained undefeated after eight, games following a 12-0 triumph over McDonalds, while the Little Legals bounced from a 2-10 loss to the Tanapag-based squad with a 12-2 win over the Pirates to remain in second place with a 7-1 record.

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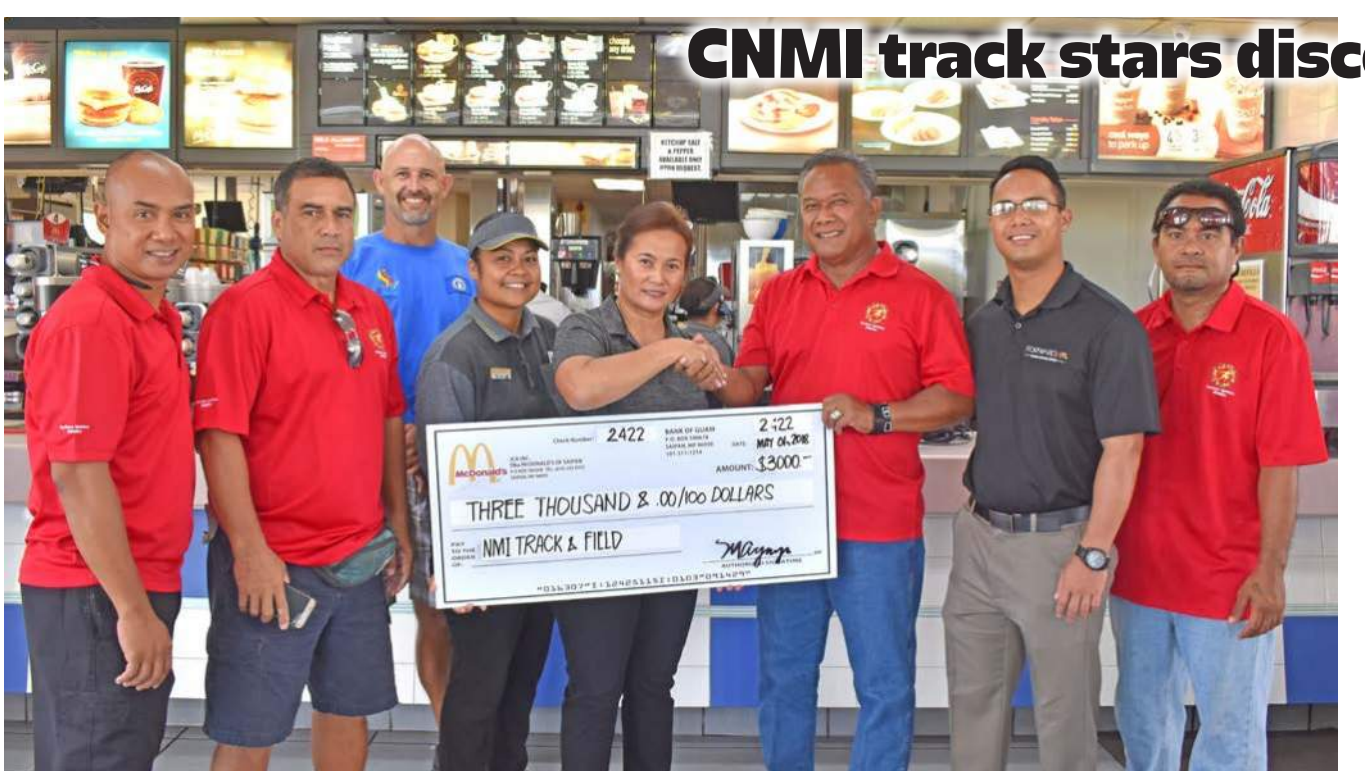
JON PEREZ

Kagman Marlins pitcher Nick Sablan winds up a throw, while umpire Manny Tenorio looks on during the former's game against the Chalan Kanoa Cubs last Sunday in the Minor division of 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

CNMI track stars discovered in All Schools



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Joe Ayuyu Jr. is just continuing the commitment made by their parents to the Annual McDonald's/Public School System All Schools Athletics Championships.

The partnership between McDonald's and the Northern Marianas Athletics began in 2005, when the local federation was still known as the Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field Association.

Ayuyu, McDonald's Middle Road branch manager, told *Saipan Tribune* that aside from giving back to the community, they are also supporting the NMA's grassroots program that discovers CNMI's track stars.

"Our parents (Joe Sr. and Marcia) chose to do this. Our family has been a big supporter of sports and other events that help the kids remain active and have exercise," said Ayuyu during yesterday's do-

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JON PEREZ

McDonald's owner Marcia Ayuyu, fifth left, shakes the hand of Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb during yesterday's check donation presentation at McDonald's Midde Road.